

A CHRISTIAN'S GUIDE to AI

What you need to know
to live with integrity in
the digital age

HANNAH WOODHOUSE

A Christian's Guide to AI: What you need to know to live with integrity in the digital age

Copyright © 2025 by Hannah Woodhouse

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the author, except for brief quotations used in reviews, articles, or scholarly works.

ISBN: 978-1-300-34405-6

Cover design and interior layout by Hannah Woodhouse.

Printed in the United States of America.

For permissions, inquiries, or speaking engagements, visit **agratefullifelived.com**

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the ESV – English Standard Version and used by permission.

First Edition: 2025

*This book is dedicated to Aoife, Teddy, George, Fritz, and Beckham.
I pray that you grow in wisdom and curiosity. Keep delighting in the
little blessings you see!*

—

Introduction

I didn't see myself as someone who would write about the integration of AI into copywriting, creative work, and Christian life. I've been a ChatGPT skeptic—hesitant to give it much information or attention. As a writer, I've wrestled with the artistic implications of artificial intelligence. As a Christian (and an Enneagram 1), I'd postholed on the premise that AI will lead to a mass outsourcing of judgment; that ethical combustion is imminent.

Disaster is a possibility, sure. But it's not a guarantee, nor something I will accept without a fight.

AI Has Already Arrived

If you think you haven't used AI yet, you're probably wrong. Before making the news, AI slowly made its way into the little, everyday tasks. In 95 percent of this paper, I'm referring to narrow AI (also known as weak AI), as opposed to specialized AI—which is the bedrock for most people's AI fears. With that in mind, take a look at some of the practical uses of AI you likely benefit from:

- Predictive texting (your phone suggests the next word you'll likely type)
- Face recognition
- Google Maps (traffic reports, fastest routes, etc.)
- Customer service chatbots

As I mentioned, however, AI can also be specialized in various ways. By way of example, in your daily life, let's say you have a licensed therapist you see weekly. Depending on your life circumstances, though, you might decide you want to see a therapist who specializes in trauma, parenting, marriage, abuse, etc. If someone expresses their fear of AI, they are most likely referring to specialized AI, which is more like the latter. According to pastor and theologian Jay Kim, specialized AI is "a program that can cross barriers and do all that people do." We do not currently have specialized AI to the degree that it functions autonomously. It doesn't exist... yet.

As of Spring 2025, the AI you see promoted across channels and networks is called narrow AI. In a way, narrow AI is akin to a contract employee. This employee needs specific context and instructions to do the work you are asking. In contrast, specialized AI would replicate human intelligence and adaptability across a wide variety of tasks. As you might guess, when this specialized or "super" AI arrives for the masses, the ethical implications will skyrocket. That is why I developed this guide: I want to help you determine your convictions on engaging with AI—before it's thrust in your face, your job, and your home life; before ideological tension rises with the arrival of super AI.

Before you learn all the AI terms and functions, though, we need to start with a foundational question: Is AI bad?

Is AI Bad?

The question of AI's implicit value is like a flashback to 2005. These were the days when skinny jeans were king and Facebook et al became a widespread phenomenon. At that time, people asked the same question. Is social media bad? What about Google and technology in general?

The answer lies in the intention of the heart ([1 Sam. 16:7](#)). Any tool—digital or otherwise—can be used for evil. It can also be used for good. So, as we consider the role AI can play in society, the first step is to take a step back from the doomsday prediction I confessed to above. My hope, through this guide, is to dispel the myths and focus on the truth. Together, we will cover some basics about AI as well as how to engage in a spiritually healthy, sustainable way.

We'll tackle this subject from a broad lens, using three sections:

Section 1: What is AI, and how did it originate?

Section 2: The good and the bad of AI

Section 3: Next Steps (How will you use AI, and what safeguards can you implement?)

Here's what we're not going to do in this guide: fear.

In Ecclesiastes 1:9, we read that “there is nothing new under the sun.” And as I've tallied days on this earth, I find more and more comfort in this verse. It reminds me that God is never caught off guard by change. He is never surprised by what occurs or shocked at the latest technology humans develop. He knows absolutely everything.

God has also embedded His wisdom in His world. It's evident in the ebb of seasons and the miracle of new life. . . there is a Creator, and He is good! And as a good and all-powerful God, the Lord uses everything for His glory (Rom. 8:28). We can look around and see His kindness, even in scary and challenging things. In the words of apologist Sean McDowell: “He's given us all we need to unlock the beauty of what He's put in creation.”

As we unpack the functionality, impact, and ethics of AI usage, remember that:

God can use all things for good.

Section 1: What Is AI?

The term “artificial Intelligence” (AI) has been thrown around for decades. What was once a buzzword in futuristic movie plots is now at our fingertips. While I am miffed that we are entering 2025 without flying saucers or self-cleaning furniture, I can see that AI is not to be ignored. Like its great ancestor, the computer, AI faces legions of skeptics and critics. When the personal computer arrived in the 1980s, the main causes of fear (termed “computerphobia”¹ and even referenced in computer manuals!) are the same as they are now: (1) the potential irrelevancy of humans and (2) the hidden cost for people’s health and connection.

There is nothing new under the sun.

That doesn’t mean that AI isn’t jarring, though. When I first utilized it in 2023, I remember staunchly closing my laptop and deeming the ChatGPT response “freakish.” I didn’t like how foreign AI felt, and so I ignored it for the better part of the next year. Now, I want to encourage you not to make the same mistake. Education and awareness are always beneficial, even if they lead to a conviction not to use AI in certain (or all) circumstances. I want to help *you* make those choices, not the voice of fear.

So, let’s start at the beginning. . .

The concept of AI emerged in the mid-20th century. British mathematician Alan Turing theorized that machines could mimic human problem-solving and decision-making processes. He went on to create the aptly named Turing Test. The test used criteria to determine if a machine was “thinking” or not. It defined the computer’s capability to exhibit intelligent behavior and thus, Turing became the “father of AI.”

Since Turing burst onto the scene in the 1950s, machine learning continued its slow trudge to actualization. Once researchers abandoned the concept of rule-based programming in favor of instantaneous feedback loops (like the brain’s neural firing), computers did indeed begin “learning”—utilizing patterns and human input (i.e., info typed in) to complete tasks. In other words, once researchers began modeling machine learning on how the human brain works, they made rapid progress.

Guys, we humans didn’t invent our way to machine learning and AI. We used *God’s* design, the same one that allows you to read and comprehend this very sentence. As I said above, nothing

¹French, Kristen. “Why We Reject New Ideas.” *Nautilus*, 30 Jan. 2024, nautil.us/why-we-reject-new-ideas-500455/.

about this has God scrambling to come up with a plan; He created the blueprint for this technology in creating mankind!

AI Winters & Autumns

Despite Turing's advancements, computer research had a long way to go before the technology could mirror human behavior. Still, optimists were buoyed. One such person was mathematician John McCarthy. He created a summer-long workshop for similarly-minded researchers. It was there, in 1956, that—two years after Turing's tragic death— that the term “artificial intelligence” was coined.

But as the Vietnam War grabbed hold of the 60s, the computer science community grew weary. The computer had to be trained—guided like a kindergartner writing the ABCs. And just like a worn-out teacher correcting a backwards “d”, researchers grew exasperated. Funding and development shifted to other fields from 1974-1980. Yes, Ernst Dickmanns invented the first self-driving car in 1989, but on the whole, progress with artificial intelligence stalled.

The 90s led to some resurgence of interest, but it wasn't until the 2000s that AI came back into the limelight. NASA launched two Mars rovers, Siri and Alexa became household names, and emotionally-aware robots entered the chat.

Now, things are booming. Now, “renewed interest in AI and machine learning from both researchers and businesses has led to a dramatic increase in funding and investment.”² In 2024, big tech (think: Microsoft, Apple, etc.) spent more than 160 billion dollars on developing AI infrastructure. This is an arms race of sorts, as companies race to develop advanced AI models. So, yes, these companies are putting down serious cash, but they're looking to make a *lot* more in the process.

There will continue to be an ebb and flow of research and development. But all trends indicate that we have cracked the code around the time that Chat GPT was introduced to the public in 2022. Even “winters” will be mild as AI progressively integrates into society.

Speed, Productivity, and Worth

You're smart. You work hard at your job, and you are constantly learning how to professionally level up. Employers love people like you because your work ethic necessitates continued growth. So, each month, you are a little more proficient than the last.

But imagine if you condensed that rate of learning. What if you recognized areas for improvement and addressed them in less time... what if it took you a minute instead of a

² Thorwirth, Zacharie. “Ai Winter: The Highs and Lows of Artificial Intelligence.” *History of Data Science*, 24 Nov. 2021, www.historyofdatascience.com/ai-winter-the-highs-and-lows-of-artificial-intelligence/.

month? You would be indispensable in your career field, equipped with the limitless ability to crowdsource improvements and quickly make them happen.

You would be more valuable. Right?

According to society, yes. Lest I turn this into a multi-volume philosophical commentary, I will keep this section brief. I will not remove it, though. The way we view artificial intelligence hinges on how we view humanity as a whole—*what's the deal with machines being like humans if humans aren't all that special, anyways?*

Since childhood, we have been taught that speed begets productivity and productivity increases value. If we do more, we are more. That is a lie. My hope is not to convince you of the deception, but rather to introduce some questions you may find helpful. Regardless of your worldview, I need you to know that developing your stance on these issues is vital to finding your footing in the world of AI. I don't know it all; I will share what I do know.

It all starts with value.

Defining "Value"

What makes something valuable? From an economic standpoint, value is created by demand. Thanks to my AP Econ teacher, Mr. Goebel, I know how this works. I also know that demand has an inverse correlation with supply. In layman's terms: If the world has a zillion flowers, people don't pay much for a bouquet; if the world has 50 flowers, only the richest in the world can afford a bouquet.

Just like a flower, though, the value of a human is ultimately not resting on our *function*. Yes, we do stuff, but isn't it the beauty and personality and creative insight of others that makes you pause? We are human *beings* not human *doings*. That is complex, though, and in response to a broken world, we start defining value for ourselves. Over time, we have turned to a myriad of different variables, all in an attempt to place a finite value on humankind—*value lies in your skin color, gender, relationship status, financial success, or your "follower" count*.

It's all transient. In truth: You have value because there's no one like you, because God intentionally made you, because He has plans for you, and He wanted a *you* that no one else can be. You have value because God made you.

In practical terms, I believe this reality means that every man and woman who has ever existed has inherent (God-given, not going away). No amount of work or money or pedigree can alter that.

BRIEF HISTORY OF AI

Early algorithms solved simple mathematical problems.

EARLY CONCEPTS

AI ideas began in the mid-20th century.



THE TURING TEST

A pivotal moment for AI and machine intelligence.



NEURAL NETWORKS

Inspired by human brain functioning and learning.



AI IN EVERYDAY LIFE

AI technologies now assist us daily.



MODERN ADVANCEMENTS

Deep learning transformed AI capabilities and applications.



A CHRISTIAN'S GUIDE TO AI

SIDE NOTE

If those words ring true, I am so glad; it is a joy to know that God has allowed our paths to intersect. When I think of the hundreds of men and women who have spurred me on, I'm giddy just thinking that I may be one of those people in your life.

If you're struggling to believe these words...if they seem empty or straight out of a fantasy story, I am so glad you're sticking with me. You are welcome here. Each one of us is building a foundation—pouring down steadfast beliefs, ripping up lies, watching the slant of the walls as we embark on this thing called life. It is a scary thing to question that foundation, and I know that because I have questioned everything. In fact, just two years ago, I was pretty sure that doing so would flat-out kill me. Anxiety throbbed through my veins as I considered that my life was void of meaning on my own. The skyscraper of pride I had built was flimsy and cold. I took a proverbial sledgehammer to that life I'd built, and watching it fall was the most terrifying and liberating experience. See, freedom is pervasive and appealing; it's worth the leap.

Friend, I believe that when we genuinely pursue truth and ask God to show us if He is real, He answers.

My life looks wildly different from three or four years ago. That paper scaffolding of accolades has long since burned to ashes, and who I am is starting to bloom. This life is authentic—built on a firm foundation ([Matt. 7:24-27](#)). How I live is a key indicator of who I know God to be, and who I know God to be is the grounds on which I evaluate artificial intelligence.

Societal Definitions of Value

Now that we have anchored ourselves to the fact that all humans have worth, let's take a look around the harbor. As I mentioned above, our world does not see value in everything and everyone as equal. People are mooring up to fancy job titles, lavish vacations, and mighty influence. This has created generations of overworked, overstimulated, and overly busy people.

If our value is, as the world says, resting on *more* productivity, *more* wealth, and *more* worldly success, then the goal of using AI is to do *more* work with *more* speed and *more* efficiency. As smartphones and the world wide web have taught us: Unhinged access to *more* does not serve us well. In other words: AI can help us do more, but at what cost?

Quantifying productivity is easy when your worldview hinges on the premise that I DO MORE = I AM WORTH MORE. It's more complicated when you believe that your worth is unchanged by anything you do. That is the lens I encourage you to peer through in your research and learning about AI. Productivity is moving unflinchingly toward what brings you most alive. As I have come to say, "Productivity is looking more like Jesus."

By those standards, AI can be the *most* productive or the *least* productive addition to your life. Let's aim for missionally-focused productivity.

Section 2: The Benefits & Dangers of AI

The Benefits of AI

As a creative, AI still gives me the heebie-jeebies sometimes (Merriam Webster recognizes that as a word, so we're rolling with it). Already, individuals have used AI systems to impersonate others, promote fake news, plagiarize, and outsource critical decision-making. And that's just the lighthearted stuff. The basic idea is that machines can learn whatever we teach them, which means someone can input another writer's content into ChatGPT to "create" a report with their name on the byline. Even worse, individuals have capitalized on AI image-doctoring to falsify news reports³ and create child pornography⁴. It's horrible and unsettling, to say the least.

On the flipside, AI is proving to be a positive influence in many arenas:

- **Medical Care:** AI is helping free up doctors' time by transcribing notes, summarizing data, and transcribing prescriptions.
- **Accessibility:** More than 2.5 billion people will need assistive technology in 2030⁵, a problem that's alleviated by tools such as AI-powered voice technology, AI-powered braille tutoring, virtual reality opportunities, and robotic process automation (RPA). These tools, as well as others, are also allowing more individuals with special needs to embrace autonomy and independence.
- **Safety:** AI has proven helpful in monitoring workplace safety and proactively addressing risks.⁶ One example is forklifts that are now equipped with AI cameras to detect human movement.
- **Research:** The once-laborious task of organizing and analyzing data is much simpler with AI. I have personally used a system called [Julius](#) to analyze large sets of data, saving me over ten hours of manual comparison. AI also helps as we observe wildlife, predict trends, and summarize other research in pursuit of our own.

³ "AI and the Spread of Fake News Sites: Experts Explain How to Counteract Them." *Virginia Tech News* | *Virginia Tech*, 22 Feb. 2024, news.vt.edu/articles/2024/02/AI-generated-fake-news-experts.html.

⁴ WAVY TV 10, "Fake images, real crimes," YouTube video, September 23, 2024

⁵ Weitzman, Tyler. "Empowering Individuals with Disabilities through AI Technology." *Forbes*, Forbes Magazine, 13 Aug. 2024, www.forbes.com/councils/forbesbusinesscouncil/2023/06/16/empowering-individuals-with-disabilities-through-ai-technology/.

⁶ El-Helaly, Mohamed. "Artificial Intelligence and Occupational Health and Safety, Benefits and Drawbacks." *La Medicina Del Lavoro*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, 24 Apr. 2024, [pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11181216/](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11181216/).

- **Education:** A student at MIT recently created an AI-lab assistant, and the machine is effectively accelerating research efforts. According to MIT's Department of Materials Science and Engineering (DMSE), the assistant can "retrieve and analyze data, switch equipment on and off, and drive robotic arms to mix liquids, for example, or prepare materials for experimentation or analysis⁷."

As if that's not exciting enough, AI-powered tutoring and grading bots are transforming academia at all levels—for teachers and students!

- **Economic Growth:** One of the biggest myths about AI is that it will destroy vocational stability, rendering many without a job. It's a myth, just like that which preceded the Industrial Revolution. Yes, AI might eliminate 85 million jobs by 2026, but it's slated to create 97 million new ones, resulting in a net gain of 12 million jobs.⁸ So take a deep breath with me and remember that there is nothing new under the sun; robots aren't taking over the world, or our jobs.

Which Benefit(s) Will You Take Advantage Of?

Many processes that left us groaning in the past are now manageable (or completely avoidable) thanks to AI. You can't tell me that rapid progress in curing diseases, improved communication for non-verbal individuals, and virtual reality history learning *are not* positive opportunities!

Before we dive into the not-so-shiny aspects of artificial intelligence—and we will, I promise—I want you to review the information above. Take a minute to truly appreciate this insane technology and how it is displaying the splendor of God. I say this because the lustrous appeal of AI is but a drop in the vast ocean of God's wisdom. Rather than leaving us feeling like gods, the use of AI ought to give us a glimpse of God.

Try as we might, the combined brilliance of all mankind still falls short. And that should leave us awestruck!

Reflection

Take a minute to reflect on this section and consider how you might be able to see the good in AI. What benefits could it bring to your life? How do you feel about it in general, thus far?

⁷ Jason. "Accelerating Research with AI-Assisted Experiments." *MIT Department of Materials Science and Engineering*, 2 Feb. 2024, dmse.mit.edu/news/accelerating-research-with-ai-assisted-experiments/.

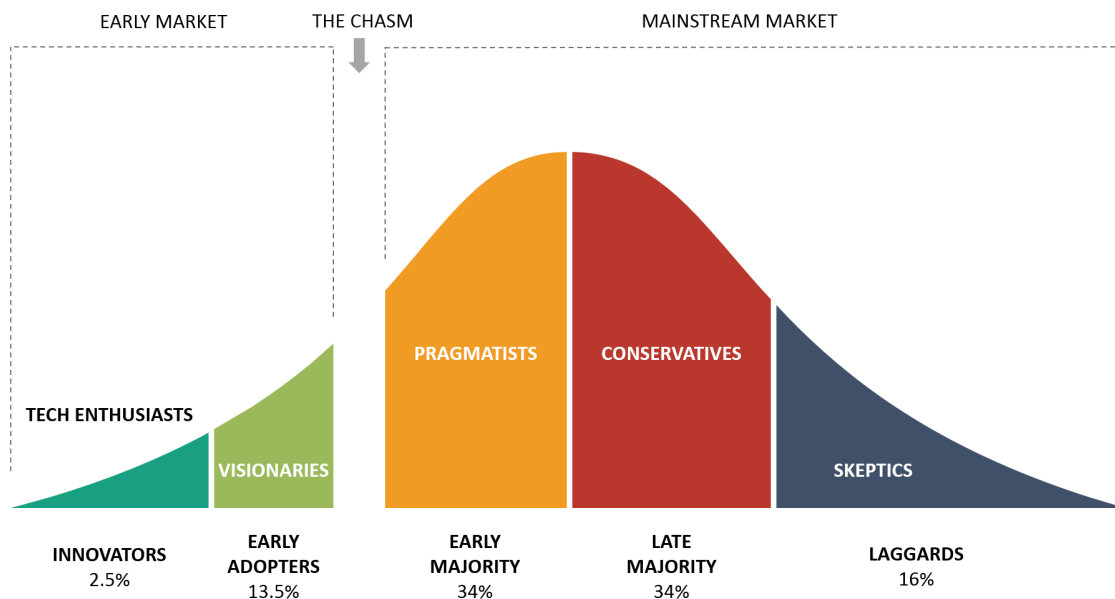
⁸ Prestianni, Timothy. "131 AI Statistics and Trends for (2024)." *National University*, 14 Jan. 2025, www.nu.edu/blog/ai-statistics-trends/.

The Dangers of AI

When the iPhone first came out in 2007, did you rush to place an order? If so, you are what sociologist Everett Rogers would've called an Early Adopter. In the 1960s, Rogers published a book titled, *The Diffusion of Innovations*. In it, he introduced what is now known as the Technology Adoption Curve (though it applies to broader consumer behaviors as well as technology-specific business).

According to the curve, there are five main types of consumers:

1. Innovators
2. Early Adopters
3. Early Majority
4. Late Majority
5. Lagards



The largest categories, by far, are the Early Majority and the Late Majority at 34 percent of the market, each. What does this mean?

It means that most of us are not inclined to enter the early market. We bide our time, thinking pragmatically and/or conservatively (the laggards are more skeptical) about new technology. The market needs these hesitant thinkers as much as it needs the fanboys and fangirls. The latter (innovators and early adopters) comprise only 16 percent of the market. You wouldn't know it, though, as sometimes they are the loudest. These folks, whether via passion or

commitment bias⁹—shout the praises of technological advances, such as AI. This is important to know because you ought to (A) discern where you are on the spectrum to better understand your response to AI and (B) recognize the echo of the minority as what it is and not a reason to “buy in” without further thought.

Make sense?

With that in mind, it's time we look at the not-so-pretty parts of AI. You'll notice that most of these are usage-related. Why? Because we are the ones who create and implement the systems. AI is not inherently good or bad. We, on the other hand, are moral creatures and have value systems.

As the Board Chair of AI and Faith wisely queried, “Can we code morality into AI?” In other words, can a self-driving car make a value judgment between hitting a child in the road or hitting a tree and killing the driver? Whatever “morality” is embedded into AI is rooted in the morality of the creator. Who are we letting make these decisions?

We are responsible for how AI is used and the impact its decisions have. That is to say: We need to be aware of the dangers... and our propensity to flit toward them. We cannot assume that the moral code of AI is biblically informed. Quite simply: this is why Christians need to be in this conversation and why I'm writing this guide.¹⁰

Environmental Considerations

Sasha Luccioni is in the world of AI, and it's not uncommon for her to get flak for it. Granted, she is in the field of AI ethics research, but that doesn't stop strangers from occasionally emailing her with claims that her work will end humanity. “AI isn't so [popular] right now,” she admits. But AI isn't going away, and as Sasha shared in a 2023 TED Talk: “We're building the road as we walk it, and we can collectively decide which direction we want to go.”

One option is to bypass efforts toward sustainability in favor of data. The other is to take a “stop” before diving headfirst into AI consumption. AI doesn't exist in a vacuum; the choices we make in this nascent stage have massive implications for the planet with which we are entrusted.

As it pertains to said planet, the existence of AI poses two main energy-drainers. Running technology that supports AI uses a lot of power (measured in terawatt-hours, or TWh). Those computers are typically powered by fossil fuels. Burning fossil fuels releases CO₂.

⁹ “Commitment Bias (Escalation of Commitment).” The Decision Lab, thedecisionlab.com/biases/commitment-bias.

¹⁰ Saddleback Church, “How Should Christians Approach A.I.? with David Brenner,” YouTube video, November 21, 2003.

As you'll see, the carbon footprint of training AI is as much of a concern as the actual energy used during functions:

1. **Training** - Machines may be speedy, but they still need to learn to walk like humans. To get a Large Language Model (LLM) like ChatGPT up and running, companies need to input information and repeat simulations; Just like a basketball player taking free throws, LLMs need reps to increase their accuracy. These reps needed to prepare ChatGPT3 used enough energy to power 120 houses for a year.¹¹ That energy usage is equivalent to driving your car around the Earth one hundred times.
2. **Inference** - "Once models are deployed, inference—the mode where the AI makes predictions about new data and responds to queries—may consume even more energy than training."¹²

Because AI is more sophisticated than Google, it requires more energy. According to research from the Columbia Climate School, the world's data centers (which are used to evolve AI processes and operate almost exclusively on fossil fuels) account for more greenhouse gas emissions than the aviation industry. Much of this is stemming from large fans used to keep the technology from overheating, meaning that up to 40 percent of the energy isn't even going *toward* the data storage/synthesis; it's going toward keeping everything cool enough! It is estimated that by 2030, these data centers will use 3-4 percent of power worldwide—that number rises to eight percent in the United States (by 2030).¹³

That's a lot of science, and if you like that kind of thing, solid: go peruse the resources in the footnotes. For the rest of us: this is sufficient to hopefully drill home the claim that developing and running AI uses a lot of energy, and the rapid uptick in how much energy it uses is concerning. Experts warn that this increase in AI usage will strain the power grid of the U.S. and other large countries. In layman's terms: We may lose power or find power much more expensive because it's in limited supply. AI conglomerates do not disclose this energy cost. Few rules are in place, and existing rules have petty pocket-change fines for these tech companies. This is a notable risk.

At the end of the day, we must remember that nothing is free; the cost will likely come back to hurt future generations, particularly if we are reckless now. You and I must consider what ethical AI usage looks like. We must determine how we can use AI in a way that aligns with our individual values. This is something we will discuss in a later section. First, though, we need to acknowledge the ethical implications of AI as a whole.

¹¹ Sasha Luccioni, "AI is dangerous but not for the reasons you think," TED Women, October 2023.

¹² "AI's Growing Carbon Footprint." *State of the Planet*, news.climate.columbia.edu/2023/06/09/ais-growing-carbon-footprint/.

¹³ "US Environmental, Social, and Governance Legal Considerations for AI Companies - Status Quo and Practical next Steps." *US Environmental Social Governance Legal Considerations AI Companies Status Quo Practical Next Steps*, www.lw.com/en/insights/us-environmental-social-governance-legal-considerations-ai-companies-status-quo-practical-next-steps.

Ethical Considerations

Last year, I listened to a live presentation on AI in the workplace. The bubbly speaker rattled off a myriad of ways we could use AI, even displaying a bot that looked and sounded human. When it was time for questions, my hand shot up. It was the only hand in the air, but I didn't let it waver. My question was important.

"How can we prevent this from becoming another classist luxury?" I started. "One where people who can afford to buy into AI services make more money, and those who cannot afford those resources get poorer? What can we do to prevent that?"

To my horror, the presenter glanced around the room as if to say, "*Can you believe this girl?*" and then answered with a chuckle: "We can't."

My brain largely shut down by the time she went on to explain that everything is like that. "AI will be no different," she shrugged. "That's just how stuff goes." Her explanation was not okay with me then, and it's not okay with me now.

Access for All

When we set something as a standard yet deny access to the majority, it is a serious societal blunder. You should be concerned about this for the same reason you ought to be concerned about equal access in other realms. As AI continues to proliferate in the economic and social landscape, we must have systems in place to subsidize and train those of lower economic standing. Think about it: The people who could most benefit from the help of AI to climb out of poverty, work from home, find a job, etc., are the ones who won't be able to pay the premiums to access it.

I'm not unrealistic, mind you. I know that data uses energy and energy costs money, and someone must pay the bill. What I am saying is that this bill ought to be considered. I'd be more confident if our nation invested resources to provide free AI training and premium membership to those who need it most. As it is, I am frustrated at the frivolity of AI's introduction to our world. It goes against my morals to wholeheartedly endorse a system that will further widen the economic gap if current patterns continue.

Representation for All

Let's imagine a world in which everyone can benefit from the creation of AI. In this world, individuals of all backgrounds and beliefs can access AI. Cool. Beneath access, however, is still the issue of representation. In other words, the tech sector is dominated by males; so the AI systems we use are created by and for men. Lack of representation in the creation of AI tools disempowers minorities. I first realized the extent of this when I read "Invisible Women," by Caroline Criado Pérez. To my shock, I learned that Microsoft and IBM's facial recognition is racist from a statistical standpoint—according to an MIT study, "facial-analysis software shows an error rate of 0.8 percent for light-skinned men, 34.7 percent for dark-skinned women." We can't

take AI at face value—literally or figuratively. The beliefs and data that AI systems are trained on are based on the perceptions of a tiny sample of the general population.

This is nothing new. Search engines have been notorious for reinforcing racism since their release. Then and now: Representation in AI is something to be cognizant of—in terms of development and the product itself. See more in [Appendix 3](#).

Knowledge for Knowledge's Sake

Humanity's greatest strength is the ability to feel. It's a bitter reality to face during hardship, but this capacity also motivates us to explore, think, and connect.

What happens when we take the journey of knowledge away? What happens when we make it so easy to amass resources that we outsource critical thinking in the process? As I've mentioned, this is a large concern of mine. We must be cognizant that the money invested in AI is aimed at getting you and me to use it. Lots. Just like social media, AI is not designed for moderate use. It is curated to be attractive and necessary—that's how the companies make money.

There are various problems with this intoxicating effect, the most concerning being how it incentivizes speed over substance. As we will discuss shortly, that is particularly worrisome for those in creative fields. It highlights the vital question: **What is the end goal we have in using AI?**

Knowledgeable Reflection

With that in mind, I encourage you to return to the section that tackles the value of critical thinking. Think about the prevalence of AI in your life and find the spot in the sand where you draw the line... It'll be different for you than for me, but you and I *must* know where that line is if we ever expect to hold to it.

I use AI to further the creative and process-oriented passions I have. It helps me brainstorm and synthesize data. It also really helps me get organized sometimes. But I decided early on that these functions cannot come at the expense of the creative passions themselves. Why? Because easy is not my goal; authentic art and expression are my goals.

I am a writer; I love writing. So I am writing this paper by myself with no AI assistant to help. That matters a lot to me because it lines up with what I believe about the world and about myself. I like the journey and find value in it. I hope that whatever your endeavors are, you find merit in the process as well.

Educational Considerations

The Dangers of AI section is becoming quite a bit longer than the benefits. That's not to say that the new technology isn't worth it—again, that is for *you* to decide with the help but not coercion of this guide.

This section is longer because fully unpacking the considerations will help you understand the extent to which they matter in your life. There are many benefits; the risks are a little more nuanced and take more time to go through, and nowhere is that more evident than in the realm of education.

Are We Bypassing Critical Thinking?

As the seasoned saints in my life have reminded me over the years, “Back in the day, if students had a question, they’d visit the library to search through an encyclopedia.” Younger me likely rolled my eyes, but age has given me valuable perspective. What a different way of life that must have been!

Furthermore, by that standard, my Google-fied childhood probably seems entitled. I have always been able to research with the click of a finger. Searching a concordance is foreign to me, so I have to think it’s largely unknown by Gen Alpha. This generation of tweens is growing up with next-level research. Forget Google searches, today’s students can utilize AI to help with math problems, final papers, and research. The danger that it poses is clear: It’s easier than ever to take shortcuts in our thinking.

When I was in sixth grade, I did a project on albinism. I perused the library, finagled my way through the Dewey decimal system, and made friends with EbscoHost. Then I read a few books, supplemented with Google, and wrote my paper. The final product was a crisp essay and display board, both of which were significant to me because I worked hard to create them. To present my project, I first learned how to identify credible information and incorporate it into the greater story I was gathering.

Now pretend I’m in sixth grade again (stick with me for one cringey paragraph of pretend middle school, okay?). If it were 2025, I could very easily complete that project in twenty minutes—I’d plug in website URLs, input a few sources of my writing to teach AI my writing style, add the project requirements, and press ENTER. To finish it off, I’d run the paper through an AI editor and add a few AI images to jazz it up. Project done.

Is AI hurting our ability to reason? This example would suggest that the answer is yes, or at least: it *can* hurt our ability to reason. To engage in critical thinking, we must be able to come up with novel thoughts that we pump through the cogs of our brain to produce effective conclusions, ideas, or beliefs. When technology gives us the thoughts (i.e., research sources), the machinery (i.e., the AI), and the product (i.e., the paper), the mental load is drastically reduced. Instead of “what direction should I go with this?” we are left with, “which sample of writing do I want to feed the machine to make it more realistic-sounding?”

This isn’t meant to be all doom and gloom, even if my artist heart is biased toward that angle. Just like I never had to rely fully on printed resources, today’s children will never have to rely fully on their own writing or processing. At least *not in the way we did in the past*.

The effect is that young learners have amassed a wealth of information to learn and experience far more than we could at that age.

They have:

- Amazing tools to increase competency and understanding, like virtual field trips and labs
- The temptation of lazy thinking/living to an extreme that previous generations did not

This is why it is vital to prioritize face-to-face conversation, debate, and learning among our youth; we must encourage reading physical books and talking about information that is spread in public spaces. Why? Because children must learn how to distinguish credible and authoritative voices—amid the billions of other tidbits flying their way—and they must find a voice of their own.

Creative Considerations

Do you remember the 2023 travesty that was *Winnie-the-Pooh: Blood & Honey*? It was Pooh's foray into the horror genre, and it was wild (so I've heard—I'll never watch horror movies).

Per IMDB, the movie's premise is that Christopher Robin abandons Pooh and Piglet for college, so the duo “embark[s] on a bloody rampage as they search for a new source of food.” Yikes. (If you wanna go down a rabbit trail, check out some of the stories of schools and parents accidentally playing this movie for their now-scarred children.) Even without anecdotal evidence, however, the departure from Disney's wholesome character is clear.

This matters because it's an example of the public domain principles at work. The public domain, in simple terms, refers to creative materials that are not protected under copyright. No copyright lasts forever. In 2022, *The Adventures of Winnie the Pooh* entered the public domain. This meant that (with some caveats), the original story by E.E. Milne became a content-free-for-all. Less than a year later, *Winnie-the-Pooh: Blood & Honey* hit theaters.

While interesting, this appropriation is not unique. As AI's influence grows in the creative industries, so does the thief's ability to “snatch” others' work... *Why wait for a piece to be released into the public domain if you can create your own book by mixing and matching others' writing?*

Allow me to explain. Let's say I publish and copyright this guide. If a friend of mine spots an indecent fellow selling reprints of this guide at a festival, I could easily sue for copyright infringement (among other things). But what if that dude took another route? What if he opened up ChatGPT, attached this guide, three other pieces I have published, and a link to my website for more material? What if he asked ChatGPT to use that content to create a new piece of writing about the intersection of faith and technology? He would have pretty good chances of successfully publishing his *own* content in my voice, with my words and my research. Yikes.

Litigating AI Use

The US Copyright Office has been deliberating on issues of technology and copyright since 1965¹⁴. At that time, the office preferred looking at these dilemmas on a case-by-case basis. Sixty years later, this stance remains largely unchanged. The office is undertaking extensive research to clarify what warrants a copyright status in the age of AI. While the findings are helpful, the first two reports are largely silent on the issue of AI training using human works. This is a glaring omission for creatives—another bitter reminder that our legislation is lagging behind AI advances. Whether we're looking at regulations for ethical practice or environmental sustainability, only the European Union has developed a semi-robust AI Act—gradually being implemented in 2025-2026. The US has fragmented ideas and even a collection of “pledges” from AI companies to practice ethically. But that's it. We are sorely behind.

The NYT vs. Microsoft

In 2024, *The New York Times* made headlines of its own by suing Microsoft and OpenAI for using copyrighted material from *The Times* to train its large language models (LLMs). After all, for AI to “work its magic,” it must pull data from countless sources on the internet, which OpenAI claimed falls under fair use access and is 100 percent legal. The case is still open, and the newspaper is still fighting on the basis that people will have no reason to buy a subscription if AI can circumvent the paywall and summarize articles.¹⁵ Open AI, on the other hand, argues that excluding copyright material from training models would effectively dilute its information, eliminating valuable information, data, and stories.

This is where you need to put on your critical thinking cap and look into the nuances of this yourself.

**What would it look like for AI models to present inaccurate or incomplete information?
What would it look like if AI could access copyright works that are on the web?**

AI for Writers

When I mentioned to a coworker that I was writing this publication on AI, he was intrigued. His first question, however, was if I was using AI to write this. The answer is no... and yes.

I like writing for writing's sake. As I've mentioned above, I see tremendous value in the puzzle of words; far too much to let a robot do the task for me. I also have a line I've drawn for myself in terms of what I will and will not engage with when it comes to AI writing. That being said, I've used AI to summarize fifty-page research studies about copyright, and I used it to create my initial outline. Those are aspects of AI I consider “in bounds.” You have to make these types of value decisions as well.

¹⁴ The United States Copyright Office. “Copyright and Artificial Intelligence Part 2: Copyrightability.” Jan. 2025.

¹⁵ Audrey Pope, et al. “NYT V. Openai: The Times's about-Face.” *Harvard Law Review*, 10 Apr. 2024, harvardlawreview.org/blog/2024/04/nyt-v-openai-the-timess-about-face/.

The beauty of humanity is in our quirks and individuality. It's something that we risk losing in a society that bends to compilations of writing pieced together by tech. There is a time and place for that, sure. The risk, though, is that we take that boundary and throw it to the wind. If someone can train an AI agent to write like I write, they can also steal powerful tones and rhythms of highly esteemed writers. Beyond theft, the greater loss would be in assimilating our written works because "ChatGPT said it would sound better this way." I want to circle back to the beginning here, because it is important: AI can only mimic. It cannot create original works, nor can it decide to forgo convention in a nod to an artistic or personal situation. Sometimes, I truly don't know what I want to write; it just comes out. AI can help with brainstorming, but it cannot enter the chaotic brainspace of puzzling words together. Nor can it create a fleshly being that thinks and breathes and hurts. AI can only give us what we concretely know, what we think we want. That's incredibly limiting.

As a creative writer, I am constantly considering the impact AI may have on my writing and the craft at large. If you're in a similar boat, I encourage you to think over the following questions and discuss your thoughts when you get a chance.

Which aspect of writing is my favorite? How can I protect its integrity?

How is my writing voice consistent across my pieces?

How does my creative direction change in a way AI cannot predict?

Am I using AI to *increase* my output or *outsource* my output?

AI for Artists

Image generation was the first popularized aspect of AI. What started as a funny gimmick (think: a generated image of a dog with six legs) is now growing more accurate. While many artists have used AI for inspiration and ideation (definitely a perk), some are using it in more nefarious ways. Whether they are artists or not, the people in the latter group can honestly or dishonestly claim space that used to belong to pure artistry. While there is a place for technology in art, the line is impressionistic.

At the very least, artists can protect themselves with the help of resources like [Have I Been Trained](https://haveibeentrained.com/) (HIBT). The website is a search engine for AI datasets. In other words, it lets users check if AI companies have used their images to train datasets. You can also go one step further and register your domain in the Do Not Train registry—according to HIBT, “this is an additional layer of control and security for individuals who want to retain authority over how their data is used in the rapidly expanding field of AI.”¹⁶

¹⁶ Spawning. *Have I Been Trained?*, haveibeentrained.com/. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.

TL;DR Creative Considerations

You can find more resources like HIBT in the Resources appendix. Ultimately, though, the tension of creativity and artificial intelligence comes down to a collective conviction; a firm stance on what we *will* and *will not* protect.

This next section will help you clarify your position.

Section 3: Next Steps (your relationship with AI)

I owe much of my love of research to my dad. He gave me my first notepad and an electronic organizer that I used for years. It makes sense, then, that with his help, I took an analytical approach when it came time to choose a college. We started with the good ‘ole *Fiske Guide to Colleges*, a values list, and a template for writing to college coaches. The tactic helped narrow down the seemingly endless array of options. It helped me *focus*.

Focus is the goal of this section. Now that you know the key advantages and disadvantages of AI usage, it’s time to figure out the place it will have in your life. I will present a few key questions that will help you consider this. Before that, however, I want to reiterate why this is so important.

Why Set Boundaries for AI?

If you’ve made it this far, this question may seem redundant. The last nineteen pages have crystallized the need for individual and corporate AI regulations. What’s more: I’ve outlined many reasons why we ought not dive into the world of AI headfirst.

There are some who disagree.

I’ve recently become a big fan of the podcast *Unexplainable*, with Noam Hassenfeld. I stumbled upon the show last fall and admittedly forgot it existed until a few months ago. That’s when I found a riveting episode called “Will AI Ever Feel?” While I’d hope you’ll check it out for yourself, I do want to touch on a few key points.

The episode explains that there are two main schools of thought in AI research: (1) computational functionalists and (2) biochauvinists. For computational functionalists, the importance lies in the abstract complexities of the “game” rather than the “pieces” we use—or who/what created them (I’m paraphrasing here, so bear with any discrepancies). Biochauvinists, a term coined by philosopher Ned Block, are those who believe that the *things* we use matter.

“They think that human biology is the blueprint for what *consciousness is*—you need biology to have consciousness.”¹⁷ Not merely *pieces*.

As a Christian, I implore you to consider this in light of the Bible. When it comes to the creation and function of life, God is clear: He is the Creator, and the details of this *do* matter. God didn’t need the widow’s mite ([Luke 21](#)) to sustain His Church, just as He didn’t subsist on the Israelites’ sacrifices or the fish of a boy that Jesus multiplied. God did not *require* anything to fulfill His purpose, but He chooses to involve us, and these details matter in the journey of our faith. *How* things are done matters to God, friend. Living beings are to mirror our Creator Father by creating. Yes, that includes what we create with technology, but if we take humans out of the equation, what do we lose? When we look at the board game of Life: Do the *pieces* matter? We have to ask these questions if we proclaim to be followers of Christ. The details matter to Him.

This is the only portion in which I’ll get “pushy” with you. I do so because Scripture is very clear on the importance of human creation. The way that belief fleshes out in our daily lives will be different, but if we aren’t coming at it from the foundation of Scripture, it’s a moot point. Thus, I wanted to reiterate and fortify the words I shared at the beginning. I want to help you focus. Make no mistake: Artificial intelligence is amazing, but it is no match for the intelligence of our Lord. If we forget the foundation, the rest of this information is useless.

What Questions Are We Asking to Hold AI to the Light of the Gospel?

As promised, I’m sharing a few personal prompts you can use to gauge your motivations for using AI. They will also help you judge if that usage follows your core values and beliefs—make sure you [establish/discover those first](#). Keep in mind: AI is designed for convenience, and asking yourself the following questions is not necessarily convenient.

To help remind yourself to check your motivations for using AI, you may find it helpful to paste the question by your computer or use the acronym SPRI. If you come up with another way to slow-mo your mind, I’m all ears!

1. **Am I maximizing my creative process or trying to bypass it?**
2. **Is the task I’m using AI for a passion of mine?**
3. **Would I care if others knew I used AI for this task?**
4. **How will I invest the time I save?**

Self. Passion. Reputation. Investment.

These are 4 (of many, I’m sure) characteristics that are at risk if we recklessly use artificial intelligence. However, they can be strengthened if we use AI with discretion and intention.

¹⁷ Hassenfeld, Noam. “Will AI ever... feel? Unexplainable. January 8, 2025.

As AI continues to develop, so will our questions and reflections when using it. Be assured of this, however: Artificial intelligence can currently only mimic what we tell it to do; it replicates and rehashes. The human mind is unpredictable, though. We *need* the zigzag, and we won't be able to replace that with feedback loops in a machine. Friends: it has never been more important to be human—gloriously, unpredictably human.

A Note of Caution, a Message of Hope

Congratulations on reaching the end, especially if you aren't my immediate family. 😊 This has been heavy and downright intense; it goes against my bubbly nature to let our time end like that. Luckily, it doesn't have to. When I started researching AI and faith, I was cautiously optimistic. I knew that God has control over all the nuances of modern life just as He did in Bible times. But I was simultaneously worried about the trends I see and how a singular voice could make an impact.

If I may extrapolate a quote from Christian financial advisor, Ron Blue: God owns it all. He owns this world, the machines we clutter it with, and the lives we etch on it. Within the divine complexity of free will, God reigns. Nothing will be destroyed or created that is greater than the Lord God Almighty. This comforts me when I feel out of control. It is the truth that guided Joshua when Moses died, and God told Joshua he was to lead the Israelites. See, Joshua wasn't battling foreign nations; he was fighting against anything that stood opposed to the Word of the Lord. So it's not too far out of context to find strength in the promises God spoke to Joshua,

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:8-9).

From Jericho to JavaScript: God is in control. We have nothing to fear and everything to gain. He who is in you is stronger than [anyone or anything] in the world (1 John 4:4).