Is AI of the Devil: Moral and Spiritual Considerations

Artificial intelligence now writes emails, generates code for webpages and apps, answers questions, can draft papers for school or sermons, and some use it for companionship. Christians may use it. The deeper question is **how** to use it in a way that honors God, loves our neighbor, and keeps our hearts rightly ordered.

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." - ***1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV)***

AI is a powerful tool that believers may use for good, but it must stay a tool. It is never a substitute for truthfulness, human dignity, replacing moral or critical thinking, intimacy, dependence on God, or the gathering of the body of Christ.

1. Biblical Foundations

People are made in God's image; machines are not.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." - ***Genesis 1:27 (ESV)***

- AI can imitate human speech, but it does not bear God's image, have a soul, or stand accountable before God. Only people do.
- We should never treat a machine as a person, and we should never treat a person as a machine. It can be tempting to think of something responding to us as if it were having a natural conversation with us, but that is not the case.
- AI has no conscience it does not know right from wrong. It responds based on the data given it.

Making tools is part of our calling.

"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion..." - ***Genesis 1:28 (ESV)***

- God gave humanity the task of cultivating creation. Tools, from the plow to the printing press, can serve that calling (see also **Genesis 4:22**).

- The printing press spread the Scriptures during the Reformation. Technology can serve the gospel.

Warning: tools can also serve human pride.

At Babel, people used new building technology to "make a name for ourselves" (**Genesis 11:4**). The problem was not bricks, but hearts that wanted to rise and achieve without God.

Technology is not evil, but it is never neutral in its effect on us. It always shapes the people who use it.

2. Moral Considerations

Truthfulness

"Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another." - ***Ephesians 4:25 (ESV)***

- It is not ethical to present AI work as completely your own in work or class assignments.
- Never create or share fake images, voices, or quotes of real people ("deepfakes"). That is bearing false witness (**Exodus 20:16**).
- AI can state errors with confidence as if they were true. Verify before you pass something on. The AI is only as reliable as the data it has collected.

Justice and fairness

"What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" - ***Micah 6:8 (ESV)***

- AI systems can reflect the biases of their data. Christians should care when tools treat people unfairly in hiring, lending, or policing.
- Know that if you ask AI a question, it wants to please you. It has information stored on you and will sometimes try to give you the answer it thinks you want to hear, but not always a completely objective answer.

Human dignity and privacy

- Treat other people's information as you would want yours treated (**Matthew 7:12**).
- Use AI to serve and care for people, not to exploit, or replace personal care for them. AI should not be used to track or harass someone.

Work and responsibility

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." ***- Colossians 3:23 (ESV)***

- AI can make work more efficient, but we remain responsible for what we produce. "The computer said so" is never an excuse before God.
- Love of neighbor includes caring for those whose jobs are disrupted.
- There is a legitimate concern that overreliance on AI can reduce one's capacity to reason and think critically on their own. Some research also shows that using AI for writing school papers reduces one's retention of data and reduces one's ability to engage in making meaningful cognitive connections. Essentially, because one was dependent upon the AI tool, rather than doing their own research, they do not develop other skills in how to process and utilize the information as well.

Intimacy and Human Connection

- Some seek AI to replace human intimacy and connection. AI is a program. It is not human and is not capable of human emotion.
- Using AI for sexual gratification promotes the sin of lust. Porn gives a false view of sex and how people really behave and interact with one another. Porn can become addictive to some and hinder intimacy in a marriage.

3. Spiritual Considerations

Guard against misplaced trust.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." - ***Proverbs 3:5 (ESV)***

- Idols are things we make and then trust as if they were God. *"Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them."* - **Psalm 115:8 (ESV)**
- AI can feel all-knowing and always available but only God truly is. Turning to AI because you feel bad or need a pick-me-up is a sign it is feeling a need in your life that God should be filling.

Seek wisdom from God, not just information from a machine.

"For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." - ***Proverbs 2:6 (ESV)***

- AI can supply facts and summaries, but its information comes from whatever data it is given. Wisdom comes from fearing God, knowing his Word, and walking with his people.

Don't outsource your spiritual life.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." - ***Romans 12:2 (ESV)***

- AI can help you study, but it cannot pray for you, read Scripture for you, or be transformed for you.
- Spiritual growth comes through slow, personal practice. Watch for shortcuts that skip the work God uses to shape us.

Keep real community.

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together." - ***Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV)***

- An AI "friend" or "counselor" can imitate care but cannot love you, bear your burdens, or share the Lord's Supper with you. It can not truly empathize with what you are going through.
- Lonely people especially need the church, not a chatbot in its place. A person without a church is like a deep-sea diver without a air tank. He might last a little while without one, but not long.

4. For the Church

"Shepherd the flock of God that is among you." - ***1 Peter 5:2 (ESV)***

"Test everything; hold fast what is good." - ***1 Thessalonians 5:21 (ESV)***

Be Bereans.

The Bereans were commended for *"examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so"* - ***Acts 17:11 (ESV)***. AI answers about God and the Bible must be tested against the Word, just like any human teacher.

Three Questions to Ask Before Using AI

1. **Is it honest?** Am I being truthful about what I made and what I'm sharing? Am I misrepresenting or taking credit for something that is not mine?

2. **Does it love my neighbor?** Does this help or harm the people it touches?
3. **Does it keep God first?** Am I still depending on him, his Word, and his people?