

Relationship and Community

The use of AI should enhance the relationship between members of the community. We are one body and must live in a rightly ordered relationship with each other. As a community, we must work together towards the renewal of all things.

Biblical View - God has called us to be in relationship with our fellow image bearers (Genesis 2:18, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12), creation (Genesis 1:28-30), and Himself (Hosea 6:6). God has created humans to live in community with one another. Each member of the community plays a vital role in developing the other community members. The use of AI should enhance the relationship between members of the community. God has called us to sharpen each other as members of His kingdom (Proverbs 27:17). To do this, we need close relationships with those around us. God has placed each member of the community where He needed them to be. Without each part, the community would not be whole. As a community, we can support each other. When one suffers, the community suffers with them. If one succeeds, the community rejoices with them. Every member of the community is essential to its health. God has created a richness in the community we share in Him (Based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-26).

As a community, we must work towards the renewal of all things. Together, we determine the role of AI in our world. Together, we must find ways to love our neighbor through the technologies and tools we are given. This includes AI and the impact it has on our society and relationships. How we imagine technology's impact on relationships and society must be viewed through a Biblical lens, where people are the ultimate part of God's creation. Together, faculty and students "form a community of scholars responsible for developing and sharing insight, from its theoretical beginnings to concrete applications" (Dordt Educational Task). AI allows us the ability to review information faster and record notes from meetings, which can give more time for deeper conversation. AI is also beneficial in sharing insights to make our work more efficient, allowing faculty to give a larger quantity of feedback on student work. Staff can also use AI to gain insight into prospective students, giving them a more personalized recruitment experience.

If AI interrupts these relationships, the community is harmed. We do not find fulfillment when we use technology to replace our relationships. AI does not have the emotions with which God has blessed humans. AI does not rejoice when someone succeeds. AI does not suffer when another person is struggling. AI can give insight into the data surrounding a person, helping to understand that person better. However, AI cannot become a person, and we should not reduce our relationships to digital exchanges. We must also be alert to concerns of simulated relationships. While interactions with AI may be helpful, valuable, and insightful, we must remember that AI is a tool, not a fellow image bearer.

CREATIVITY

We are created in the image of the Creator, and as such, we are creative beings. We affirm that the cultural mandate requires human responsibility for and over all cultural development. Humans are always responsible for the tools they use to create, maintain, discover, and develop culture, including AI tools.

The God of the universe is the ultimate Creator (Genesis 1:27). Being formed in His image, we are also called to be creative. This sense of creativity has been deeply embedded within us. Throughout history, humans have been unfolding the creation in many ways. In this way, our creativity reflects God's character. We are called to explore, tend, and develop God's world.

We humans alone, with our identity in Adam and in the second Adam (Jesus Christ), are created in the image of God. As creator of all things, God gifted humans with the ability to develop creation and culture, including combining rationality, wisdom, intuition, and imagination. As a created instrument, A.I. is merely our tool to carry out our God-given mandate, not a replacement for us or of our appointed work, including in an educational setting. Given current technology, A.I. may provide value in aiding and assisting humans, who must remain in control of and be responsible for their tasks. No matter what technological innovations may come, humans will always remain tasked with discovering aspects of the creational order, through experiment, creative play, and pursuit of and insight into reformational possibilities (Gen 2:19, Exodus 31:1-6; Ephesians 2:10).

Meanwhile, AI is created in the image of us; it is not a soul, nor does it have an intuitive sense for creational care and responsibility. It is not alive, it does not have any sense of being or subjectivity, and it cannot love or care for something. Currently, AI is only "generative" and not autonomously creative; it needs ample datasets based on human-created material, its source of generative imitation. Therefore, the task of creational and cultural development is not given to AI to control. Because a university-level education requires demonstration of "serviceable insight," which requires some God-given degree of creativity and imaginative-knowing in any disciplinary setting, AI products cannot substitute for or replace the task of teaching and student-learning. A strong concern with human use of AI is that total reliance on it may lead to cultural stagnation and endless imitation, perhaps even degradation.

IMAGE BEARERS

Human beings are created in the image of God. No other creatures are described this way, which makes humanity unique amongst creation: we reflect our creator. This means that human beings are not equal to God, but also that we have a particular role bestowed upon us by God, to serve as his representatives to creation. Likewise, we are responsible for treating our human neighbors with the honor and dignity that is inherent in them.

Being created in God's image (Gen. 1:27, Col. 3:10) means we reflect what God is like. God is love; we reflect this in our capacity to be loving. God is just; we reflect this in our capacity for justice and mercy. God is all-knowing and all-wise; we reflect this in our capacity for knowledge and wisdom. God is the Creator; we reflect this in our own creative capacities. Discerning how to use these capacities to God's glory is part of our ongoing discipleship.

Jesus's teaching on the greatest commandment (Mark 12:28-34) offers a powerful framework for understanding what it means to be a human being. Jesus's depiction of loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and loving our neighbors as ourselves, suggests that "every human person is a heart-soul-mind-strength construct designed for love" (Crouch, *The Life We're Looking For*, p.33). We are responsible for maintaining the office of human within the order of creation. In a world where AI-powered tools are all around us, we must be cautious to use these powerful resources in ways that are both God-glorifying and humanity-affirming.

We must be careful to avoid both imagining machines as human, as well as treating people like tools. An overuse of technology can begin to deteriorate the fullness of humanity. By putting our trust in technology, we lose the connection to others. When we reduce fellow image-bearers to data points, we forget their value in Christ. While AI can help us serve our neighbors, we must realize that AI will never be our neighbor. The creation of AI bots will often blur the line for the user trying to understand if they are interacting with technology or image-bearers.

INTEGRITY

Artificial Intelligence possesses numerous benefits within the educational community and should be used in such a way that these benefits are leaned on to promote our own intellectual, valuational, and spiritual development. We should strive to avoid the temptations AI presents, such as dishonest portrayals of our work and assessments. We can achieve this through intentional awareness, regular education for ourselves and others, and reliance on a solid moral foundation. Regular evaluation conducted on a personal and professional basis can ensure we maintain an ethical mindset in our work.

The Bible expresses God's wish for us to live an honest life on numerous occasions (Exodus 20, Proverbs 12:19, Ephesians 4:25). As humans, we have been granted the privilege of having been made in God's glorious image (Genesis 1:27) and have been given the responsibility to hold dominion over all other forms of creation (Genesis 1:28). This magnificent responsibility given to us naturally coincides with the obligation to provide honest leadership, ethical discernment, and an example of integrity.

As Christians, we are called upon to use our God-given gifts to share His word and purpose in our area of expertise. To efficiently carry out this purpose, we are obligated to understand the tools and ways in which our world works. In today's ever-changing society, this includes utilizing the advantages of Artificial Intelligence. It is crucial that we emphasize leveraging AI to work to our advantage with a transparent, honest approach. As with all undertakings, we must utilize a scriptural foundation to determine when and how the use of AI will facilitate our goals while ensuring we are not falsely portraying work and ideas that are our own.

As with all entities that possess these seemingly superior advantages to refine our existence, Artificial Intelligence possesses equally devastating temptations that have the potential to waylay our goal of an honest, ethical lifestyle. Scripture warns that suppressing truth will bring the wrath of God (Romans 1:18, 2:2). The alarming ease with which AI allows an individual to falsely portray products and ideas should be at the forefront of our minds when determining the ways in which we will exercise this tool. Failure to do so may result in compromised integrity or retribution from work or educational establishments.

Additionally, the improper use of AI to substitute true intellectual understanding of one's work will ultimately stunt the growth of personal knowledge and expertise.

TRUTH

The use of AI should reflect a commitment to truth as a virtue. Users of generative AI must be familiar with the variety of ways in which AI systems can, and often do, produce incorrect results; both AI hallucination and training data bias should be considered. AI must be utilized only in a way that maintains human responsibility for the results.

Scripture is clear that *truth* is a central virtue of the Christian life. Christ refers to himself as “the way, the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6). Similarly, Paul commands us: “Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.” (Ephesians 4:25). We must be aware that various cognitive biases, such as confirmation bias, are at play. We are called to test all things, holding onto what is good, and rejecting what is false (1 Thess. 5:21-22)

AI systems can be able assistants in our commitment to truth as a virtue. They can help us to say true things well, to learn new facts and information, to synthesize existing knowledge into new knowledge, and to insightfully summarize large amounts of data. They can even, if we use them wisely, help us to sharpen our capacity for critical thinking and mental discipline. While the results produced by AI engines can seem authoritative, both faculty and students must build up habits of diligence and attention to ensure that untruth does not accidentally creep into our work. Checking AI results for veracity can be time-consuming, and thinking carefully about an AI response when it has just told us something we wish to believe to be true requires significant internal discipline. When using AI as a tool to complete our work, we must learn to test AI outputs against reality, truth, and wisdom. It is through this testing that we ensure we are creating honest work that benefits our neighbors.

There are two substantial types of danger with AI systems in the area of Truth. The first is that AI systems, for various technical reasons, often end up producing *untrue results*. AI systems, because of the way they are constructed, have the capacity to *hallucinate* -- that is, to create output that *seems* very reasonable and compelling, but is simply wrong, even *made up*. Ensuring accuracy, using non-AI resources, is an implicit part of responsible AI use. Users must also be aware that AI systems are built almost entirely based on the data they've been "trained on. As a result, any untruths, biases, preconceptions, or predilections built into the training data will be present in the resulting output. For this reason, AI tends to have a genericizing and secularizing effect on its output. Because AI chatbots are non-human and are therefore unable to be responsible for what they say, this puts a significant burden on users to ascertain the truth of their output.

A second concern for users is that AI systems are also capable of assisting people in saying untrue things in a compelling and convincing way. This has implications for both the way we use AI ourselves and in the way we critically listen to what others have to say. In a broken world, the capacity to critically evaluate claims and assess sources of truth becomes ever more important. A practical, Biblical epistemology as a tool for evaluating truth claims is an important part of the educational process.