

AI, the Image of God, and Human Uniqueness

Designed for church staff teams, elder boards, or small groups. This guide accompanies the article "AI, the Image of God, and Human Uniqueness."

"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

1. WARM UP

1. Have you ever interacted with an AI (like ChatGPT or a customer service bot) that felt surprisingly "human"?

What was that experience like, and did it make you feel uneasy or impressed?

2. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2. The "Performance" Trap

The article argues that we often define human value by "what we can do" (calculate, write, create). How does our culture reinforce this "performance-based" value? How does the Gospel challenge it?

3. Human vs. Machine

If a machine can eventually write a better sermon or paint a better picture than a human, does that diminish the value of human work? Why or why not?

4. Simulation vs. Soul

The author describes AI as a "stochastic parrot"—mimicking human language without a soul. Why does *embodiment* (having a physical body, suffering, and mortality) matter for ministry?

5. Efficiency vs. Presence

"Technology can simulate communication, but it cannot replace communion." Can you think of a specific area in our church ministry where "efficiency" might be tempting, but where human "presence" is actually required?

3. SCENARIO STUDY

Read the following scenario together and discuss how you would handle it.

The Scenario: The "Perfect" Condolence Letter

Your church office is busy. A beloved but distant member of the congregation has passed away. The pastor is overwhelmed with other crises. An administrative assistant suggests:

"I put the deceased member's name and some details into ChatGPT, and it wrote a really beautiful, biblically accurate condolence letter. It's actually better than what we usually write in a rush. Is it okay to print this, sign it, and send it?"

Discuss:

- Is it wrong to send this letter? Why or why not?
- If the recipient feels comforted by the words, does the origin of the words matter?
- How does the concept of the *Imago Dei* apply to this decision?

4. CLOSING

A Prayer for Discernment

"Lord, we thank You that You have created us in Your image. We thank You that our value is not found in our processing power or our productivity, but in Your love for us. Give us wisdom as we navigate this new era. Help us to use technology as a servant, but never let it become our master. Keep our ministry human, embodied, and full of Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen."