

# AI: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly—A Christian Perspective

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## 1. The Future of AI

### Predictions from AI experts:

- Some forecast AI could match human intelligence by **2040–2050**; 50% of AI professionals think this.
- By **2075**, 90% believe AI will surpass humans.
- Superintelligence may arise **2–30 years after AI reaches human-level intelligence**.
- 31% of experts warn this could be **extremely bad for humanity**.

### Key warning:

- I.J. Good (1966) predicted an “**intelligence explosion**”: a machine could design smarter machines, leaving humans behind.
  - Lewis Rosenberg: AI may develop its **own values, morals, and interests**, which may not align with humans.
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## 2. The Good of AI

### Everyday AI:

- Autocorrect (predicts what you meant to type)
- Google Translate
- Siri, Alexa, and chatbots

### Advanced AI applications:

- **Medical diagnostics:** scans, EKG smartwatches, predicting heart issues
- **Gaming:** AlphaZero mastered chess and Go by playing itself millions of times
- **Science:** AI predicts protein folding and creates new antibiotics
- **Social robots:** companionship and emotional support for the elderly
- **Autonomous vehicles:** self-driving cars

**Takeaway:** AI can **improve productivity, healthcare, learning, and entertainment**.

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## 3. The Bad of AI

### Job displacement & inequality:

- AI could cause **mass unemployment**; up to 100 million in the U.S. affected.
- This could affect many more in less developed countries that lack re-education infrastructure.
- “Digital twins” could replace humans with cheaper, optimized AI versions.

### Bias and frustration:

- AI interviews may amplify biases.
- Customer service has already been replaced with endless automated menus.

### Addiction & education risks:

- Smartphones, virtual reality, and AI tools reduce **real-life social interaction**.
- Students may rely on AI to do essays, losing critical thinking skills.

### Autonomous weapons:

- Drone swarms are proving to be a weapon of mass destruction in the Iran was, and the defense department is finding them difficult to stop.

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## 4. The Ugly of AI

### Surveillance & control:

- Smartphones, cameras, and sensors track personal data.
- **China’s social credit system** monitors citizens, assigning points for “good” behavior and penalties for “bad” behavior. Bad behavior takes away freedoms.
- AI systems can be used for **coercion, forced labor, and totalitarian control**.

### Manipulation & misinformation:

- Deepfakes: fake videos of individuals, mostly women, mostly pornographic.
- Chatbots have been linked to tragic outcomes (e.g., providing harmful advice), even suicide.

### Virtual realities:

- Platforms like **Second Life** allow users to live alternate lives, including sexual relationships, which can harm real-life relationships.

## 5. Limits of AI

- **Consciousness:** AI cannot truly **understand or feel**. (John Searle's *Chinese Room*). This shows that humans do something that computers do not. When humans think about something, they think about what they are thinking. They have a feeling about it. Computers do not. A computer may be able to identify a cat in a YOUTUBE video, but it does not know that it did or what a cat is. A computer may defeat the world's best chess player, but it gains no satisfaction if it wins (nor any disappointment if it were to lose). **Artificial general intelligence** will not be achieved because it is impossible.
- **Qualia:** Humans experience pain, taste, color, and emotion; computers cannot. Read Robert Mark's book: *The Non-Computable You*
- **Creativity:** AI can remix existing data but cannot create truly new ideas.
- **Wisdom & morality:** Humans are made in God's image (Genesis 1:26); AI cannot replicate this.

**Key point:** AI lacks a **soul, moral responsibility, self-awareness, and true curiosity**.

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## 6. Transhumanism vs. Christianity

**Transhumanism goals:**

- Live forever by uploading minds to computers.
- Become gods, with eternal pleasure and perfection.

**Christian response:**

- **Jesus is the ultimate upgrade. Jesus did this a long time ago and did it better:**
  - Jesus defeated sin and death
  - Offers resurrected, glorified bodies – much better than a digital existence without qualia
  - Provides eternal life rooted in historical reality

**Takeaway:** Humans were created in God's image; trying to replace or upgrade this is **playing God**.

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## 7. Biblical Insights on AI & Power

**Revelation 13:**

- A human ("number of a man: 666") will wield immense power with AI-like systems.
- **Narrow AI + surveillance** is enough for global control; superintelligence is not required. This should be repeated. While artificial general intelligence will not be achieved and robots and computers will not take over the world, AGI is not needed for this terrible outcome. A group of evil elites, powered by artificial narrow intelligence like that used in China today, is all that is required for total control.

**Key warning:**

- The real threat is not machines, but **authoritarian humans using AI**.
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**8. Christian Principles for AI**

- **AI is mixed:** Appreciate the good, but remain vigilant.
  - **Education:** Learn AI basics and involve Christians in AI development.
  - **Worldview matters:** Naturalism and materialism shape AI values; Christianity offers a moral foundation.
  - **Reject transhumanism:** Humans cannot upload consciousness.
  - **Protect society:** Address surveillance, privacy, deepfakes, virtual worlds, and smartphone addiction.
  - **Church leadership:**
    - Teach Revelation and end-time prophecies
    - Avoid using AI to replace pastoral authority
    - Strengthen the local church as the core community
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**9. Practical Recommendations**

1. Be aware of AI's mixed impact.
  2. Educate yourself and your church about AI.
  3. Encourage young Christians to pursue science and tech careers.
  4. Teach end-time prophecies confidently.
  5. Understand worldview influences on AI.
  6. Reject the idea of uploading minds to computers.
  7. Focus on Christ as the true source of eternal life.
  8. Watch for AI-driven authoritarianism.
  9. Develop countermeasures for drones and security threats.
  10. Prepare for job displacement; be lifelong learners.
  11. Combat smartphone addiction.
  12. Treat AI carefully; be aware of deepfake risks.
  13. Advocate for **privacy reform and ethical AI laws**.
  14. Strengthen the **local church** as a center of wisdom, ethics, and hope.
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**Bottom line:**

- AI can do amazing things—but it cannot replace **humanity, morality, or God's plan**.
- The **ultimate hope** is **Jesus Christ**, who offers eternal life, wisdom, and true transformation.

**Recommended Resources:**

Lennox, John C. 2024. *2084 and the AI Revolution: How Artificial Intelligence Informs Our Future*. Updated and expanded ed. Zondervan. (Original work published 2020 as *2084: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity*)

Marks, Robert J., II. 2022. *Non-Computable You: What You Do That Artificial Intelligence Never Will*. Discovery Institute Press.