

The Image of God and AI

Image of God and AI

- An Epidemic!
- One Example
- How do we humans flourish with advancing technologies like AI?

How Humans Flourish

- We flourish as image bearers when:
 - We understand what the image of God means
 - We are formed into the image of Jesus
 - We are connected to an embodied community (the church)

Understanding the Image of God

- Genesis 1:26–28: “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Understanding the Image of God (Michael Bird and *Evangelical Theology*)

- Substantive View
- Relational View
- Functional View
- Royal View

Understanding the Image of God

- God made humans royalty,
 - And he designed us to co-rule in close relationship with him and others.
 - He also gifts each of us with certain capacities to fulfill our rule.

Understanding the Image of God

- Sin distorts our image bearing capacity. Since the fall, apart from divine intervention, we cannot flourish in relationship with God, humanity, or creation.
- AI is simply one illustration of this broken reality.
- Consequently, we need Jesus—the one who epitomizes image bearing, to guide us into human flourishing (Col. 1:15).

Christ Formed in Us

- The Dangers of AI
 - Idolatry
 - Deformation through Manipulation

Christ Formed in Us

- Reconciliation with God (Rom. 5:1)
- Relational Unity with God: Co-Rule (John 5:19)
- Spirit-Filled (Mark 1:9–11)
- Attentively (Matt. 4:1–11)
- Patiently (Luke 2:52)
- Reflectively (Luke 15:12–32)

Christ Formed in Us

- On a scale of 0–10, how useful is AI for the formation of Christ in us?
 - Reconciliation with God (Rom. 5:1)
 - Relational Unity with God: Co-Rule (John 5:19)
 - Spirit-Filled (Mark 1:9–11)
 - Attentively (Matt. 4:1–11)
 - Patiently (Luke 2:52)
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Incarnational Living

- The Word became fully human or God-incarnate (John 1:14).
- Today, we form a part of the body of Christ—God incarnate through embodied communities (1 Cor. 12:12–14).

Conclusion

- How do we humans flourish?
 - Restored to God through the gospel
 - Formed into the image of Christ
 - Within embodied communities