

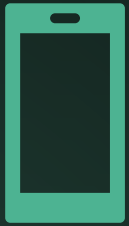
Prospects and Perils: Theology, Ethics, and AI

KATE OTT



The promises and perils of
how are we and our imaginations are shaped by
digital technology?

Typical ethical responses to digital technology



**Instrumentalize
digital technology**



**Ascribe infinite power
to digital
technologies**



**Evolving sense of
humans and
technology as co-
constitutive**

Evolving sense of people and technology as co-constitutive

- Considers moral formation in engagement with technology
- Relies upon values-based ethical approach
- Requires a commitment to critical digital literacy



How can we
engage digital
technology for
the values we
want to promote?

*God shall judge between the
nations and shall arbitrate for
many peoples; **they shall
beat their swords into
plowshares,** and their spears
into pruning hooks; nation
shall not lift up sword against
nation, neither shall they learn
war anymore.*

Isaiah 2:4

Hacking as a Christian ethic is ...

a socio-moral process

moves us from digital consumer to
digital creator, citizen, or mediator

uses an adaptive, creative, and
imaginative ethical response

attends to all (though not always at the
same time) aspects of digital literacy



AI Impacts on Congregational Life

- Chatbots for pastoral care and evangelism
- Digital technology assistance for livestream or recorded worship and outreach
- LLMs for liturgical resources (visual and written).
- Assistance for managing communication and accessibility
- Research assistance for biblical interpretation, sermon writing, congregational assessment (trends)

Ethical considerations for AI use

Decreased human connection for some activities with increased time for other responsibilities

Environmental impact of AI

Biases in AI systems

Privacy and use of data concerns

Discernment related to the
use of AI begins with
identifying
what theological and ethical
values guide your ministry?

Additional Resources

- **Digital Technology, Ethics, and Theology Bibliography**

Additional podcasts and articles for congregations by Dr. Ott

- Podcast Episode: Christian Ethics for Today's Digital Revolution
- Artificial intelligence is here. Now what?
- Is It Ethical for a Pastor to Use ChatGPT?

Global Network for Digital Theology - <https://www.gonedigital.media/>

Thank you!

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