

Artificial Intelligence

By Paul Golata

Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, students will take the following assignments.

Assignment One

Read Matthew 22:37–40. Then read the comments related to Matthew 22:37 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: If loving God and other people is a summation of the biblical commandments, what implications do the heart, soul, and strength within man play in relationship to man's intelligence? What implications does this have when artificial intelligence (AI) is incorporated into things like computers, robots, machines, and software?

Assignment Two

Read Romans 2:12–16. Then read the comments related to Romans 2:15 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: Since AI's original source code is programmed by humans, what should be the basis of ethical decision making? What are the implications if the original programming for ethical decision making does not rely on the authority of the Bible and the reality of Jesus Christ?

Assignment Three

Some believe that in the future AI will ultimately yield an Artificial Superintelligence (ASI) which is characterized as being from one to one trillion times higher in intelligence than average human intelligence in all domains of interest. Such an ASI could conceivably learn so fast and be so intelligent that it would far exceed the collective intelligence of all the humans living at the time. Prepare to share your answer to the following question: In light of Ephesians 1:17–18, what knowledge would such ASI be lacking and why?

Scripture to Memorize

"For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2:16

Session Goal

Consistent with God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit—by the end of this session, disciples will understand what principles the Bible provides about the subject of artificial intelligence.

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He holds an MDivBL from Southwestern Seminary, an MBA from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, and a BSEET from DeVry Institute of Technology in Chicago. Since 1991, Paul has been married to Dianna, and they have four daughters.

It's in the Book

30 minutes

Real-Life Scenario

You talk into your portable mobile device, and it types out your message to send to your friends. Afterwards you enter your favorite band into a search engine, and it brings up a way for you to connect instantly and listen to their newest song. You come home to unwind and play a game against your computer, which always seems to be able to beat you unless you hold it back from doing so. Since devices using artificial intelligence provide so much helpful information, what can they teach us about personal relationships and the meaning of life?

Love God with Your Mind

Read Matthew 22:37–40 out loud.

Studying the Passage, vv. 37–38

Verse 37. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all you mind. True love of God is revealed by applying all of who we are toward that love. The phrase “with all your heart, soul, and mind” implies complete and total commitment. The mind processes God’s communication as expressed in the natural world and Scripture. Loving God with our minds means this is an intellectual as well as a spiritual, physical, and emotional response.

No greater action can be taken than being in a personal, loving relationship with our Creator God. Love is expressed in ways such as adoration, awe, confession, prayer, reverence, supplication, and thanksgiving.

Verse 38. This is the great and foremost commandment. This instruction is the one that is most primary and basic. All the other commandments revolve around this central activity.

Assignment One Feedback

The student who completed **Assignment One** during the week can now share answers to the following questions: If loving God and other people is a summation of the biblical commandments, what implications do the heart, soul, and strength within man play in relationship to man’s intelligence? What implications does this understanding have when the subject is artificial intelligence (AI) that is incorporated into things like computers, robots, machines, and software?

Discussion Question

In what ways can an AI item such as a computer, robot, machine, or software express love for God? In what ways is an AI item limited related to love? What implications does this have as the performance and capability levels of AI continue to grow and expand?

On Your Own

Is loving God a function of our intelligence level or something else? Which is better: (1) to have an IQ of 80 and love God 100 percent with our being and mind, or (2) have an IQ of 180 and love God with less than 100 percent of our being and mind? Why? Write some of your thoughts below.

Humans, Artificial Intelligence, and the Conscience

Read Romans 2:12–16 out loud.

Verse 14. who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law. Humans are capable of naturally doing things in accordance with God's law, even if they are unaware of God's law. **Verse 15. their conscience bearing witness.** Mankind should know of the reality of God based on the reality of the conscience. Conscience acts in man as God's deputy and is a witness to God's reality. Conscience either accuses or excuses. It points to a higher judicatory, outside of the self.

Verse 16. on the day when . . . God will judge the secrets of men. The secret thoughts and inclinations of man are known fully by God.

Assignment Two Feedback

The student who completed **Assignment Two** during the week can now share answers to the following questions: Since AI's original source code is ultimately programmed by humans, what should be the basis of ethical decision making? What are the implications if the original programming for ethical decision-making does not rely on the authority of the Bible and the reality of Jesus Christ?

Discussion Question

Future thinkers and scientists hope that AI will be devised to operate ethically and to one day make ethically correct decisions on its own. The Bible states that man will be judged by God for every thought that goes through his mind (see Ecclesiastes 12:14; Jeremiah 17:10; Matthew 12:36; Romans 2:6). How does a human conscience provide ethical guidance that is unavailable to AI?

On Your Own

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: *In the future it may be possible for AI to be programmed to have a conscience.* Write your thoughts below.

Knowledge of God and God's Knowledge

Read Ephesians 1:17–18 out loud.

Studying the Passage, vv. 17–18

Verse 17. may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation. Paul's prayer for this church was that all would receive a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. His prayer was that they would be enlightened so that they would know the hope of God's calling. **Verse 18. inheritance.** Paul wanted them to know the riches of the glory of God's inheritance in the saints. Paul's desire was that everyone would know God deeply and intimately.

The Bible states that God is wise (Proverbs 3:19–20). All of God's acts reveal infinite wisdom. He always acts for our good and in ways that conform us to Christ. Our good and His glory are inextricably bound together. God is the exemplar and pattern of wisdom, and that pattern is perfection itself (see Matthew 5:48). God's wisdom appears in His infinite intelligence. God knows the secret mysteries of everything and the thoughts of man (see Job 38–41; Daniel 2:28; Amos 4:13). He knows all future contingencies, and all things are before Him in His present.

If mankind ultimately succeeds in designing an Artificial Superintelligence (ASI) that is one trillion times higher in intelligence than the average human intelligence in all domains of interest, how close will the ASI be to approaching God's intelligence? Infinity divided by one or by one trillion is still infinity. ASI does not have the ability to obtain the intelligence of God. God our Creator is who man should be concerned with knowing and worshipping.

Assignment Three Feedback

The student who completed **Assignment Three** during the week can now share an answer to the following question: In light of Ephesians 1:17–18, what knowledge will ASI always be lacking and why? (Also see Exodus 15:2; Deuteronomy 32:3; Psalm 96:4; 145:3; and Isaiah 43:21.)

Heart and Hands

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven.

Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart (the real you) for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something in your life for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit says to you below and then be ready to share what you have written with the group.

Since Last Week

5 minutes; see page x

Grace-Filled Accountability

5 minutes; see page x

Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service

5 minutes; see page x

Prayer

7 minutes; see page x

At Home: Nail It Down

Man is not the product of blind evolutionary chance. Man was and is created in God's image for the purpose of glorifying His Creator (see Genesis 1:27; 1 Corinthians 10:31). Man's intelligence does not come from natural processes. That intelligence is given by God so that man can relate to God and have the capacity to create in a manner analogous to but not equivalent to God.

The defining characteristic of intelligent agents (i.e., agents that act for an end or purpose) is their ability to create and communicate information. Both man's and God's intelligence may be characterized as "creative intelligence."

Intelligence may be evidenced by the action of making a choice—actualizing one possibility to the exclusion of another in order to advance a purpose or intention. Because man can say no to certain possibilities, he in at least certain respects has free will. Free will has no satisfactory explanation for those living in a totally materialistic universe. Free will allows humans to imagine God.

Advances in technology have led to AI. AI is related to the processing performance and capabilities of computers, robots, machines, and software. Some believe that AI will ultimately advance into an Artificial Superintelligence (ASI), characterized as being from one to one trillion times higher in intelligence than average human intelligence.

All AI is derived because it has been programmed to engage intelligently with human intelligence. Derived intelligence is therefore entirely materialistic and cannot explain from where it received its creative intelligence. AI always suffers from the deficiency of being unable to account for its starting point.

AI is not alive. Life is a gift only from God (see Acts 17:25). Because man is made in the image of God, man is both a living and a spiritual being (see Genesis 1:27). Even though AI is powerful in its processing capabilities, it is not made in the image of God and thereby cannot relate to God.

Parent Question

Even though you may not be able to process information as fast as a robot, what can you do that the robot cannot do?

The Making Disciples curriculum is a gift from Southwestern Seminary to teenagers who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, will spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His kingly reign in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.

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