

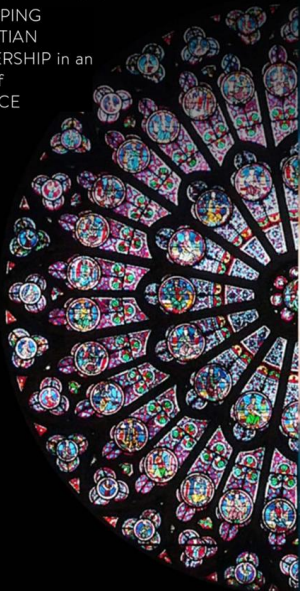


# AI: Theological Foundations

Revd Dr Kathryn Pritchard

Revd Prof David Wilkinson

EQUIPPING  
CHRISTIAN  
LEADERSHIP in an  
AGE of  
SCIENCE



[www.eclasproject.com](http://www.eclasproject.com)





# CARABAO CUP FINAL 2025 WINNERS



gettyimages

Credit: Serena Taylor



*Carabao Cup*





# From chatbots to intelligent toys: How AI is booming in China



INNOVATION

## The Rise Of The One-Person Unicorn: How AI Agents Are Redefining Entrepreneurship

By Kaushik Tiwari, Forbes Councils Member.  
for Forbes Technology Council, COUNCIL POST | Membership (fee-based)

Mar 11, 2025, 10:15am EDT

## CHURCH TIMES

Home UK World Comment Features Faith Books & Arts Regulars Art

### Press: Can AI really make journalism any worse?

by ANDREW BROWN  
03 MARCH 2023



BBC NEWS

Home | Cost of Living | War in Ukraine | Coronavirus | Climate | UK | World | Business | Politics | Tech

England | Local News | Regions | Bristol

# Universities warn against using ChatGPT for assignments

2 days ago



JOHNN HALL GLEESON AUCIA VIKANDER and OSCAR ISAAC



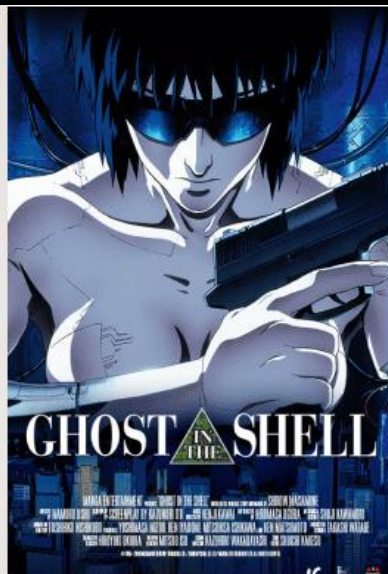
ex machina

WHAT HAPPENS TO ME IF I FAIL YOUR TEST?

COMING SOON



STAR WARS



GHOST IN THE SHELL



METROPOLIS

Directed by FRITZ LANG



Disney • PIXAR  
WALL-E  
JUNE 27



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

## Forget Killer Robots—Bias Is the Real AI Danger

John Giannandrea, who leads AI at Google, is worried about intelligent systems learning human prejudices.

By Will Knight

October 3, 2017



# John Giannandrea

The real safety question, if you want to call it that, is that if we give these systems biased data, they will be biased



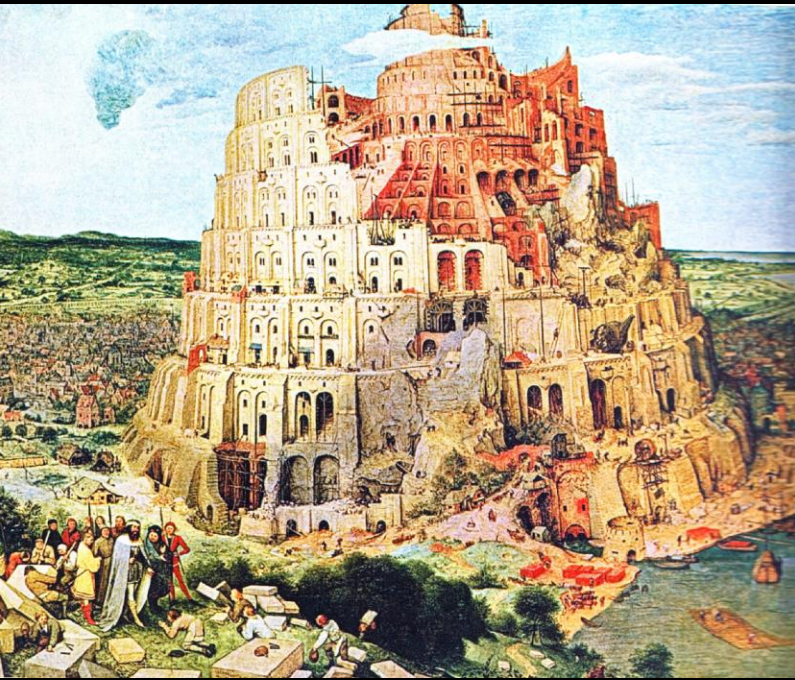
# *Secrets Of* **DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

Turning Your Leadership  
Challenges Into Opportunities



A Handbook by  
**DOYE TEIDO AGAMA**

‘Successful transformation requires a balanced approach combining strategic vision, cultural readiness and technical excellence’



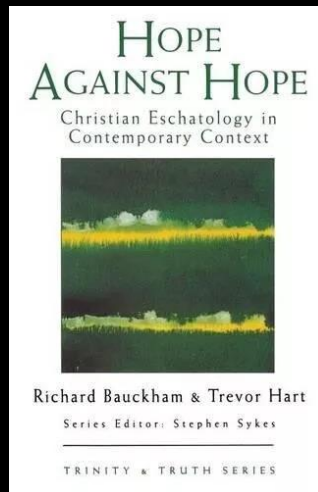
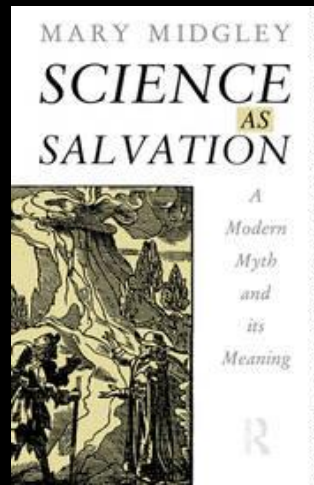
**Science as saviour**

**Science as source of power and division**

**Tower of Babel**

**Pieter Bruegel the Elder 1563**

**Genesis 11.1-9**



# Theological Foundations





# Theological Foundations



- **God's gift of creativity**



HUMAN  
BECOMING IN AN  
AGE OF SCIENCE,  
TECHNOLOGY,  
AND FAITH

PHILIP HEFNER

EDITED BY JASON P. ROBERTS and MLADEN TURK

# Theological Foundations



- **God's gift of creativity**
- **Creativity in work, play and rest**



**We Had AI Write Christian Jokes  
And You Won't Believe How Bad  
They Are**

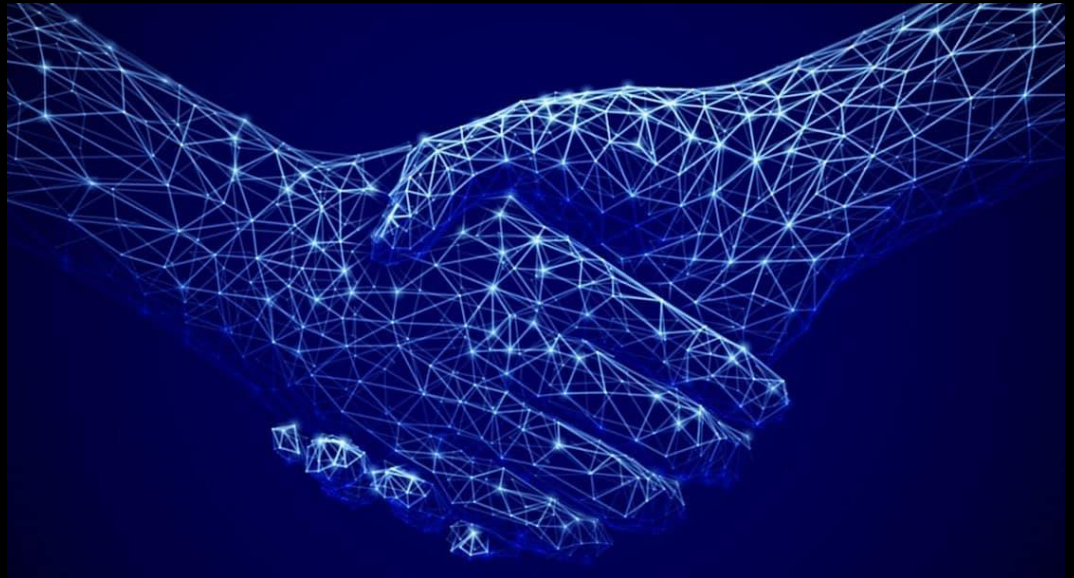
BUZZWORTHY  
BY RELEVANT STAFF  
OCTOBER 10, 2024



# Theological Foundations



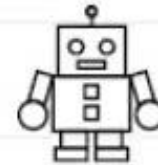
- **God's gift of creativity**
- **Creativity in work, play and rest**
- **Creativity is given in community**



## CO2 emission benchmarks

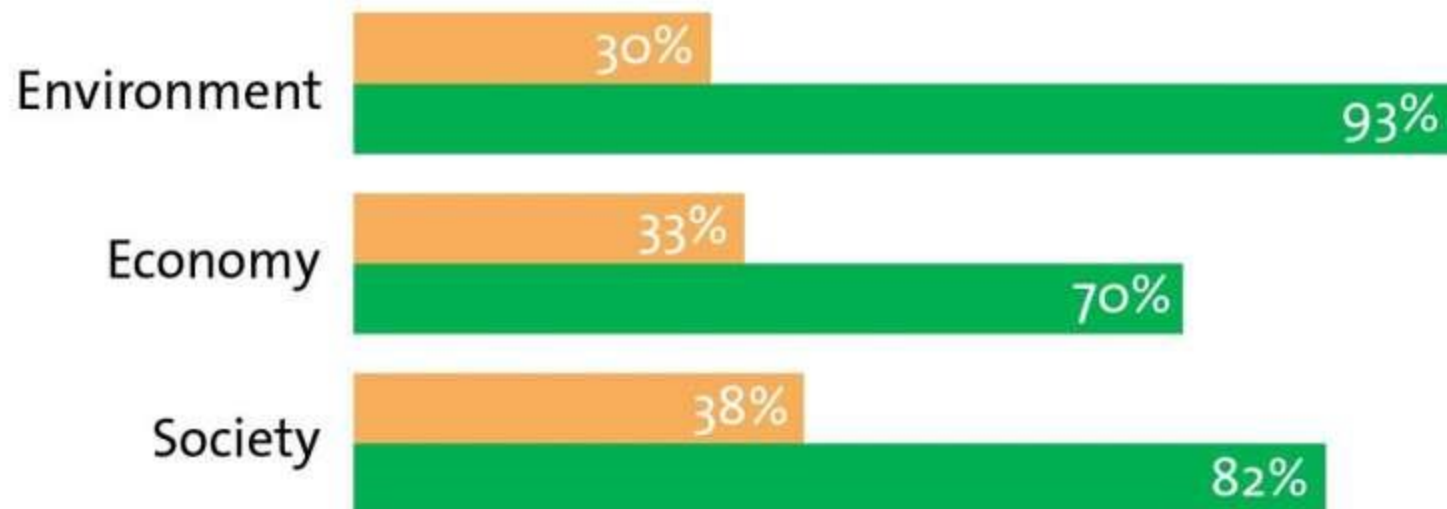
800

700



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Targets inhibited by AI    Targets enabled by AI



Data compiled Oct. 9, 2019.

An "American life" has a larger carbon footprint than a "Human life" because the U.S. is widely regarded as one of the top carbon dioxide emitters in the world.

Source: College of Information and Computer Sciences at University of Massachusetts Amherst



# Theological Foundations

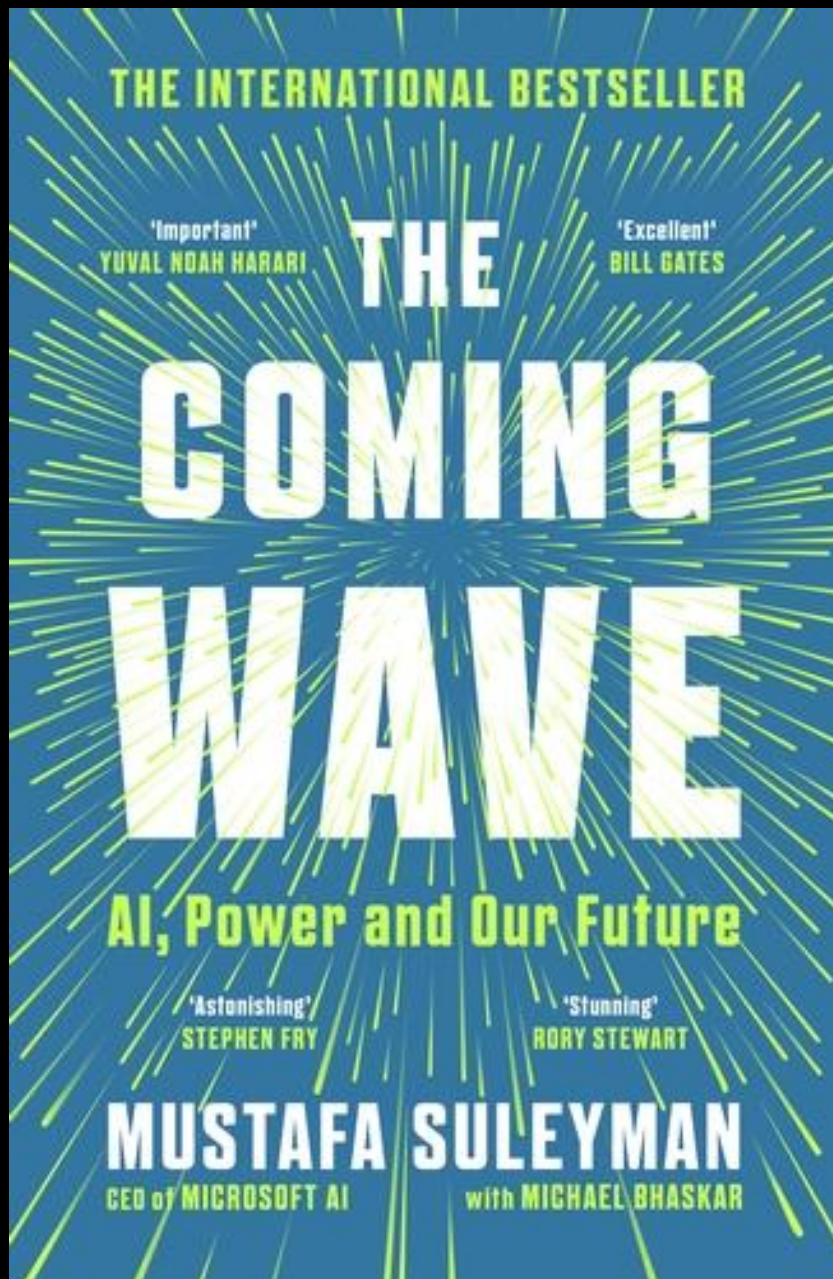


- **God's gift of creativity**
- **Creativity in work, play and rest**
- **Creativity is given in community**
- **Creativity involves risk**









[AI]...might disrupt or even overturn the current geopolitical order ...

[yet] to ban development of new technologies is itself a risk...

[since] technologically stagnant societies are historically unstable and prone to collapse

# Theological Foundations



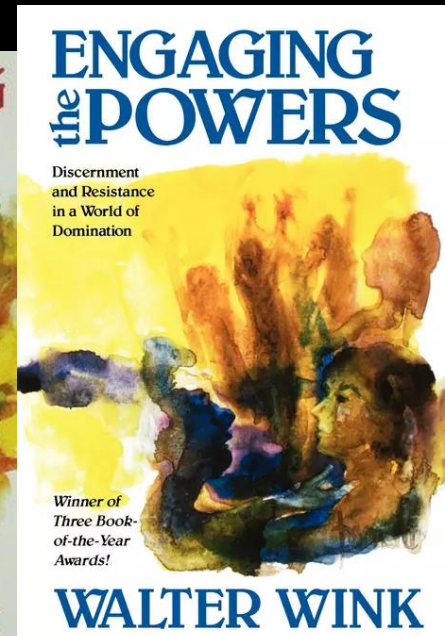
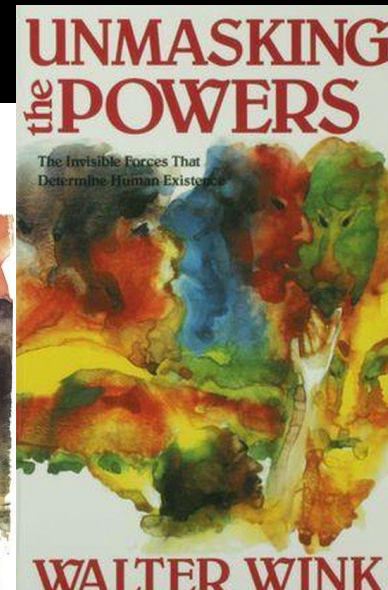
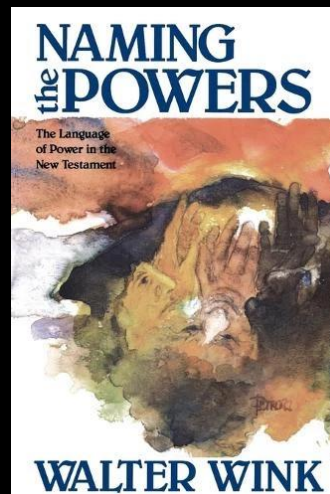
- **God's gift of creativity**
- **Creativity in work, play and rest**
- **Creativity is given in community**
- **Creativity involves risk**
- **Creativity exists in a fallen world**







Any attempt to transform a social system without addressing both its spirituality and its outer forms is doomed to failure



# Theological Foundations



- **God's gift of creativity**
- **Creativity in work, play and rest**
- **Creativity is given in community**
- **Creativity involves risk**
- **Creativity exists in a fallen world**
- **Creativity needs to be seen in the light of new creation**

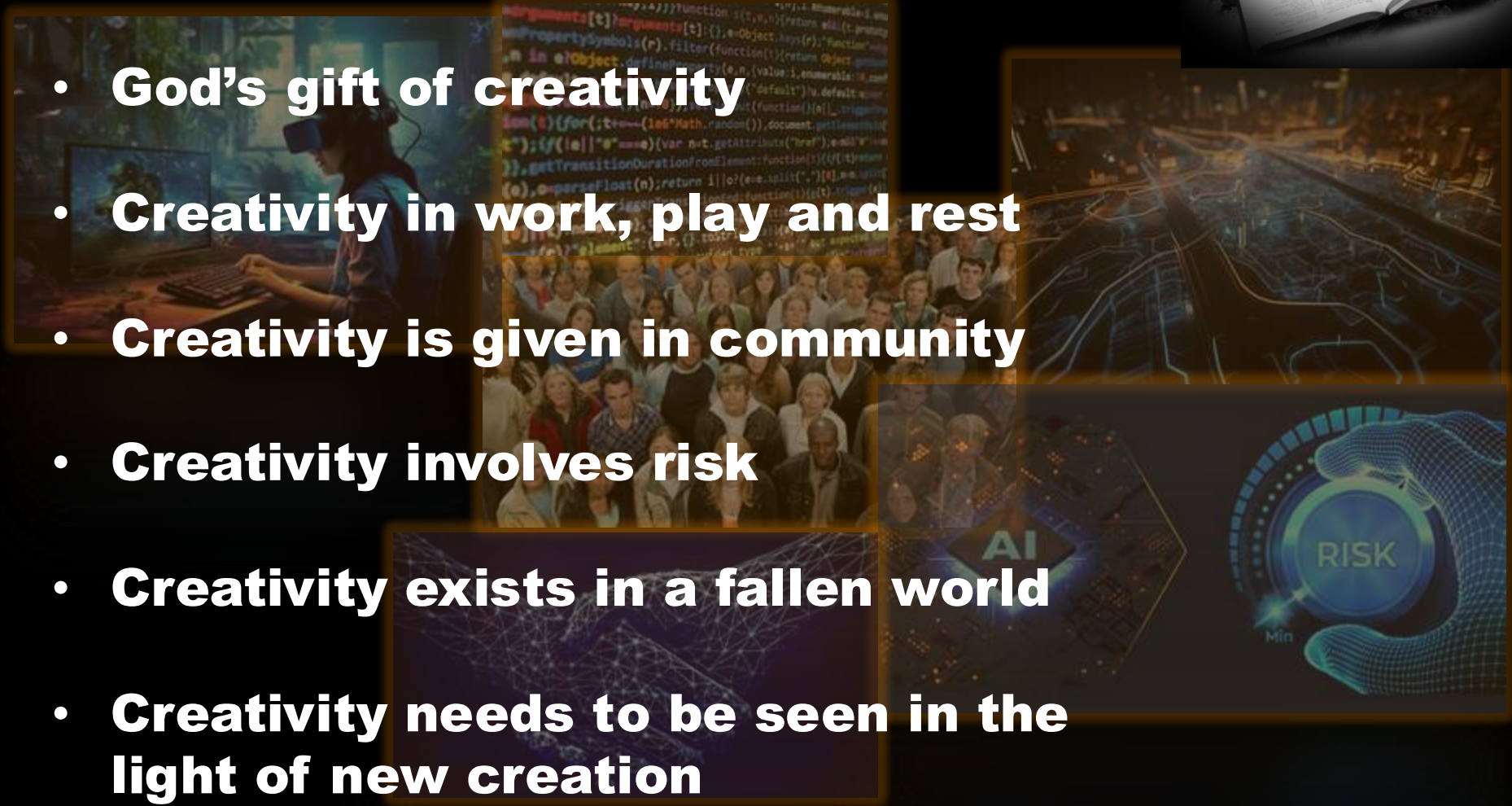




# Theological Foundations



- **God's gift of creativity**
- **Creativity in work, play and rest**
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- **Creativity exists in a fallen world**
- **Creativity needs to be seen in the light of new creation**



## Hopeful realists



# AI Empowered and/or Overpowered?



# Empowered

---

- **Supporting research**
- **Connecting the world**
- **Education**
- **Supporting medical interventions**
- **Supporting humanitarian work**
- **Challenging the economic status quo**
- **Supporting new types of collaborative AI creativity**



**Regulation outpaced by technology**

# Overpowered

---

- **International AI Arms race**
- **Existential risk**
- **Emphasis on productivity**
- **Increased AI mediation of social fabric**
- **Democracy**
- **Increased use of and reliance on advanced technologies**
- **Amplification of cultural bias**
- **Haves and have nots – Work, Women, Racial representation**







# Questions and practices for the church responding to AI and related technologies

Paying attention!  
Discerning the  
direction of travel

Public discourse?  
Standing for justice

Can the Church  
model something  
different as it engages  
with technology?

Resisting 'Tech Determinism'

Engagement with  
people in the tech  
development field

Speaking into society