

From Responsible to Redemptive

A Christian Framework
for AI Ethics



Missional AI

Before you read one more article about AI ethics...

You've probably felt it. A moment in a meeting, a ministry decision, a product launch—where the usual frameworks didn't quite fit. Where 'responsible AI' felt like the right language but the wrong ceiling. Where the deeper questions—about dignity, purpose, and what it means to be human—went unasked.

This resource was written for that moment.

It was forged not in an academic ivory tower, but by Christian technologists, ministry leaders, and theologians who gathered around a shared conviction: the Church cannot afford to be absent from the most consequential technological shift of our generation. The secular world will establish norms for AI. The question is whether those norms will reflect anything of what we believe about God, humanity, and flourishing.

What follows are seven principles, grounded in Scripture, tested in real ministry contexts, and designed not to give you easy answers—but to equip you to ask far better questions.

"AI ethics isn't just an issue of technology, but it's also an issue of humanity." — James Poulter

Want to wrestle with these questions alongside hundreds of Christians from large tech organizations, churches and ministries from all over the world?



Join us at
Missional AI Global Summit 2026
April 7-9 San Jose, Silicon Valley
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Table of Contents

Introduction: Why This Framework Exists	4
How to Use This Guide	6
The Seven Principles	8
Principle 01 Dignity & Imago Dei	8
Principle 02 Purpose & Meaning	11
Principle 03 Ethical Boundaries & Moral Guidance	13
Principle 04 Stewardship of Resources	16
Principle 05 Community & Relationality	19
Principle 06 Responsibility & Discernment	22
Principle 07 Guarding Against Deception	25
Living with Tension: When Principles Collide	28
Principles at a Glance	30
Resources	32
Missional AI Global Summit	33

Introduction: Why This Framework Exists

Every day, Christians working at large tech organizations and ministries face complex ethical decisions about AI development. Secular frameworks speak of 'responsible AI' but often miss the deeper questions of purpose, dignity, and redemption that flow from a Christian worldview.

This framework emerged from the Missional AI community—a global movement of believers wrestling with how to faithfully engage artificial intelligence for kingdom advancement. Rather than simply avoiding harm, we're asking: How can AI technology actively serve human flourishing and God's purposes?

The seven principles presented in this framework aren't meant to eliminate tension or debate. Instead, they're designed to spark biblically-grounded conversations about AI's role in our lives, ministries, and society. They prompt us to ask not just 'Can AI do this?' but 'Should AI do this? And if so, how?'

Moving from Responsible to Redemptive AI

The difference is profound. Responsible AI seeks to minimize harm. Redemptive AI actively pursues restoration, flourishing, and kingdom purposes. This framework calls us to the higher standard.

"AI is not the author of our story; it never will be. But God is, and always will be." — Liz Grennan, McKinsey

How It All Began

The principles you are about to explore did not originate from an academic ivory tower or a corporate boardroom—they were developed by practitioners grappling with genuine questions surrounding faith and technology.

This journey began at the Gloop AI Hackathon in 2024, where a group of leaders united around a common belief: the church required guidance for navigating AI that was not solely reliant on big tech companies or secular ethical frameworks. Although secular frameworks like the IEEE standards and the EU AI Act tackled technical issues, they fell short of providing a theological foundation.

These principles aren't regulations or rules. They're 'gut checks'—questions that any ministry leader can use to evaluate whether an AI implementation honors what it means to be created in God's image.

This is our Gutenberg moment. Just as the printing press democratized access to Scripture and transformed society, AI represents a similar inflection point. Pat Gelsinger, former Intel CEO, offers a warning from recent history: 'We didn't show up for social networking... look at what we got.' With AI, we have another chance.

"Those seven principles are about what does it really mean to be created in God's image and what are some value statements that any ministry leader could evaluate an AI implementation through." — Dr. Michael Arena

How to Use This Guide

Who It's For

This guide is written for Christian technologists, ministry leaders, pastors, and anyone who makes decisions — large or small — that involve AI. Whether you're a software engineer at a major tech company asking how your faith should shape your work, a church leader wondering whether to use AI for sermon prep, or an executive setting organizational AI policy, these principles are designed for you.

Wherever you are in your AI journey — just awakening to these questions, actively wrestling with implementation, or already governing AI at organizational scale — this framework meets you there. The principles work differently depending on where you stand. For some, they will raise entirely new questions. For others, they will name tensions already being felt. For those building policy, they offer a theological foundation that secular frameworks cannot provide.

And the scope of these questions operates at every level — individual, team, and organization. The choices you make as a person working with AI are not separate from the choices your ministry makes, which are not separate from the values your organization projects to the world. These principles work across all three. Use them accordingly.

How Each Principle Is Structured

Every principle follows the same four-part structure, so you know what to expect and can move through it in whatever way serves you best:

The Principle

A theological foundation grounded in Scripture, drawing on the voices of practitioners, philosophers, and ministry leaders who have wrestled with this question in real contexts.

In Practice

Concrete actions and postures that translate the principle into daily decisions — for individuals, teams, and organizations.

Reflection Questions

Four questions designed to surface honest self-examination. These are not rhetorical. Spend time with them. Use them in team discussions. Let them be uncomfortable.

Case Study

A real-world scenario that puts the principle under pressure, showing where it collides with other principles and resists easy resolution. Questions for group discussion are included.

The Seven Principles

Principle 01 Dignity & Imago Dei

Intrinsic Human Value and Creativity

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”
— Genesis 1:26-27

The Principle

Humans are made in God’s image, possessing unique dignity and creative capacity that AI cannot replicate. Our creativity reflects God’s own creative nature—a deeply spiritual activity that involves genuine understanding, personal engagement, and relational connection.

What AI Cannot Replicate

The theological foundation is clear: something about human beings is irreducible to computation. Oxford philosopher John Lennox articulates this distinction: ‘God has done something unique. He, in human beings, has linked intelligence to consciousness. Now, we’re nowhere near building consciousness. We don’t even know what it is.’ This isn’t a technical limitation awaiting a breakthrough—it’s a truth about the nature of humanity.

Dr. Michael Arena warns about AI’s increasing ability to appear human: ‘AI can mimic you. AI can actually even do that better than you on social and emotional quotients... It can fake that. This gets really dangerous, but it can’t replace it because it doesn’t have that same inner experience.’

Lord Wei offers a profound framework: 'Humans are defined by their relationship with other presences, starting with God... We are present and relational before the fall. And that is the essence of who we are.' In contrast, 'AI, primarily right now, is defined by the relationship between concepts.'

"Every human is made in the image of God. This truth must anchor all our engagement with AI." — Liz Grennan

In Practice

- Acknowledge AI's role while maintaining your creative contribution
- Use AI as a tool for exploration, not replacement of human insight
- Resist over-dependence on AI for tasks that develop your God-given abilities
- Document when AI assists your work, maintaining transparency
- Prioritize human creativity in areas requiring personal engagement and spiritual depth
- Identify 'moments that matter' that must remain human-to-human

Reflection Questions

- In what areas of your work might you be relying too heavily on AI instead of developing your own creative gifts?
- How can you use AI to enhance rather than replace human creativity in your context?
- What practices can you implement to maintain the primacy of human dignity in your AI usage?
- Are there roles or interactions in your ministry that should never be delegated to AI?

In Practice – Case Study

Surveillance in the Sanctuary

Scenario: A church considers installing AI-powered cameras in the sanctuary to track attendance patterns, identify visitors, and even detect emotional states during worship.

James Poulter's reaction cuts to the heart: 'I've even seen examples of people saying, 'Oh, we should just put CCTV cameras in the sanctuary of every church and then we'll never have to work out what our attendance patterns are. It'll help us detect when family members are angry with one another.' Which we probably shouldn't do.' The question is whether efficiency can ever justify the erosion of sacred space—and whether congregants can truly worship freely when they know they're being analyzed.

Questions to Consider

- Does worship require a space free from surveillance?
- What would congregants feel if they knew they were being analyzed?
- Could this data be misused or breached?
- Does efficiency justify the loss of sacred space?

Principles in Play: Dignity vs. Stewardship vs. Community

Principle 02

Purpose & Meaning

Affirming Our Purpose as God's Workmanship

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." — Ephesians 2:10

The Principle

AI should support individuals in discovering and fulfilling their God-given purpose, not obscure it. Technology must serve to enable the good works God has prepared for us, helping us understand and pursue His calling on our lives.

Work as Worship, Not Just Output

Pat Gelsinger grounds his approach in Colossians 3:23-24: 'Work heartily as for the Lord and not for men.' This conviction shaped his understanding that 'The workplace is your ministry.' The scale of technology work carries unique responsibility: 'How many professions get to say, I'm going to touch every human on the planet? That's what we in the technology industry get to do.'

As AI automates more work, we face a profound question about human meaning. James Poulter names the concern directly: 'One of our callings and missions is to be workers in the field and to do good work. And without there being good work to do, we've got a real crisis on our hands.' He cites projections that by 2030, humans will be capable of doing in an hour what once took a month.

Lord Wei reframes the question: 'The real mission is to help people live life to the full. Jesus said, I've come to help you live life to the full. That doesn't mean I've come to make you happy. It doesn't mean your life won't have trouble. But you will live the real life.'

Dr. John Dyer offers practical wisdom: 'Who do I actually want to become, not just what do I want to do?' His counsel: 'Build that foundational skill and then accelerate with AI rather than replace with AI.'

In Practice

- Evaluate AI tools by their ability to support purposeful, meaningful work
- Use technology to facilitate spiritual practices (prayer, study, worship)—not replace them
- Resist distractions that pull attention from God-given callings
- Design AI applications that help users discover and fulfill their purpose
- Prioritize eternal impact over mere efficiency gains
- Create meaningful work pathways for those whose roles may be displaced by AI

Reflection Questions

- How does your current AI usage support or hinder your sense of God-given purpose?
- What spiritual practices could be enhanced (not replaced) by thoughtful AI implementation?
- Are there areas where technology has become a distraction from meaningful, purposeful work?
- If AI automated significant portions of your work, what would give your life meaning?

Principle 03

Ethical Boundaries & Moral Guidance

Responsible Use Within God's Design

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." — Micah 6:8

The Principle

AI development and use must operate within ethical boundaries that reflect biblical values of justice, mercy, and humility. The story of Babel warns us against unchecked technological ambition driven by pride and the desire for power.

Boundaries That Reflect Biblical Values

John Lennox connects AI development to the ancient story of Babel: 'Behind this drive towards a super AI, intelligent or not, seems to me to be a fundamental human drive for power and to be God... The basic desire is to write our name in the sky.' The redemptive alternative points to Abraham: 'God called Abraham out of Babylon... and said, I will make your name great. We're either trying to make our own name great, or we're learning to trust God for the significance we've got.'

Liz Grennan from McKinsey offers a practical decision framework: 'Can you do something? Is it doable? And if you can do something, should we do it? And if we should do something, how should we do it?' This moves from feasibility to ethics to implementation—refusing to let technical capability alone drive decisions.

Maria Luciana Axente identifies non-negotiable boundaries: 'There are parts of the work around our faith that should not be touched by AI... conversations about bereavement, for example, or mental health, should never have a chatbot interface when you are in a distressed situation.' And regarding Scripture: 'They will take the word of God... change a comma... change the whole meaning. And the word of God is the last ever word we want any twisting of.'

"Just because we can doesn't mean to say we should."

— Patricia Shaw, IEEE Standards

In Practice

- Establish clear ethical guidelines before deploying AI systems
- Protect human privacy and dignity in all data practices
- Avoid manipulation or exploitation through AI-powered persuasion
- Distribute power rather than concentrating it through technology
- Maintain human oversight in critical decisions affecting people's lives
- Create accountability structures with clear authority to say 'no'

Reflection Questions

- What ethical boundaries need to be established in your AI applications?
- How might your AI usage concentrate or distribute power in your organization or community?
- Where do you see potential for AI to cross from helpful to manipulative?
- What activities should be permanently off-limits for AI in your context?

In Practice – Case Study

The Vendor Ethics Dilemma

Scenario: A ministry discovers that the AI platform they've been using is owned by a company whose CEO promotes values antithetical to Christianity, and the platform has been implicated in generating harmful content.

James Poulter's framework cuts through the complexity: 'I think the individual technology and the tool is neutral, but the companies that create them are not. The companies that create them are governed and stewarded by individuals that you cannot agree with... Do we say do not use this tool because this technology is going to be worse, or do we say do not use it because of how it's being allowed to be used?' This question—whether to boycott specific AI vendors based on their policies—is one each organization must wrestle with prayerfully and honestly.

Questions to Consider

- Does using this platform financially support harmful activities?
- Are there alternative platforms that align better with our values?
- What is the cost of switching—and is it worth it?
- Should we publicly explain our vendor choices?

Principles in Play: Stewardship vs. Boundaries vs. Responsibility

Principle 04

Stewardship of Resources

Using AI for the Common Good

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." — 1 Corinthians 10:31

The Principle

As part of the Creation Mandate, Christians are called to responsibly steward the resources God has entrusted to us, including technology. AI should increase work efficiency and provide value to society while glorifying God in all we do.

Stewards, Not Advocates

Dr. Michael Arena captures the posture clearly: 'We are not advocates of AI, but stewards over AI.' James Poulter articulates the tension ministry leaders face: 'We have a stewardship ethic of also wanting to be efficient with what we do because we want to be good managers of what God's resources are, and maybe in some cases that might mean a few less people doing it.' Being good stewards of resources may sometimes conflict with preserving jobs and human dignity. This tension requires wisdom, not simple answers.

One of Poulter's most profound insights: 'AI is this time machine that accelerates our ability to do things that practically would have been impossible before because of the time cost.' Consider church giving software that could now predict which donors might stop giving or identify financial distress. The ethical issue was always present—AI just made it actionable. 'It does unlock capabilities that didn't exist before. And sometimes it's in that unlocking that we reveal the ethical issues.'

John Lennox celebrates AI's kingdom potential: 'AI is beginning to reverse Babel in a particular sense... delighted to meet someone who's using AI for the Wycliffe Bible Translators.' But he adds a crucial caveat: 'Have mercy on the simpler people who may never be able to cope with those technologies.'

Yvonne Carlson warns of emerging inequity: 'We have to watch out for an emerging talent gap... they may be left behind, and I think we then have the moral responsibility to decide how to manage that.'

In Practice

- Deploy AI to serve genuine human needs, not just profit
- Address inequality rather than increasing it through technology
- Consider environmental impact of AI systems and infrastructure
- Make AI accessible to underserved communities and populations
- Measure success by human flourishing, not just efficiency metrics
- Plan now for retraining and repurposing roles that may be automated

Reflection Questions

- How does your AI usage serve the common good beyond your immediate benefit?
- What resources (time, money, expertise) could AI free up for kingdom purposes?
- Who might be harmed or left behind by your AI implementations?
- Are you stewarding AI capabilities or being stewarded by them?

In Practice – Case Study

AI-Powered Giving Analytics

Scenario: A large church implements AI software that analyzes giving patterns to predict which donors might stop giving or who might be experiencing financial hardship.

James Poulter's analysis: 'Some people would say that's an invasion of their privacy. Others would say that's good stewardship. But whilst the data and the signals and the models and the databases were all present before, the thing that wasn't present before was this time machine, which is AI, that accelerates our ability to do things that practically would have been impossible before.' The real question isn't what the data shows—it's whether pastoral care motivated by analytics is still pastoral care.

Questions to Consider

- Do donors know their data is being analyzed this way?
- Who has access to these insights?
- How will the church use this information—to help or to manipulate?
- What safeguards prevent misuse?

Principles in Play: Privacy vs. Stewardship vs. Transparency

Principle 05

Community & Relationality

Fostering Connections Over Isolation

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." — John 13:34

The Principle

Christianity places high value on community and relationships. AI should be used to strengthen bonds between people, families, and communities, rather than promoting isolation or reducing human interactions to shallow, digital exchanges.

Presence Over Concepts

Lord Wei offers a framework rooted in creation: 'We are present and relational before the fall. And that is the essence of who we are... If we subject ourselves to what the world wants to do with AI, which is to take out the human, take out the relational, just focus on the concepts, we will do great harm to each other.'

Maria Luciana Axente warns of the cost of disconnection: 'We have this thirst for human connection that we've been starving for decades... people will not know how to form genuine connection with other humans. And they will form connections with avatars, with tools.' Her concern is stark: 'If AI is coming as an interface between us and between God, we should push it away at all costs because otherwise, by the time we know it, it will take over.'

Dr. John Dyer identifies a subtle danger: 'People are formed in the way of having relationships with machines that are always, always listening to them, always amenable to them, always wanting to please them. And that's not exactly how human relationships always work out.' AI companions that never disagree may actually damage our capacity for authentic human relationship.

“One of the most countercultural skills you can develop in the twenty-first century is the ability to really listen to a person—because AIs are way better at it than almost any of us are.”

— Dr. John Dyer

In Practice

- Design AI systems that facilitate meaningful human connection
- Avoid replacing in-person relationships with purely digital alternatives
- Use AI to help identify needs and coordinate care within communities
- Resist technologies that increase isolation or reduce empathy
- Prioritize human connection in ministry and organizational contexts
- Preserve human gathering and shared spiritual practices

Reflection Questions

- How does your AI usage affect the quality of your relationships?
- In what ways could technology be strengthening or weakening community in your context?
- What practices ensure AI serves connection rather than isolation?
- Are there relationships in your life being mediated by AI that shouldn't be?

In Practice – Case Study

AI Companions for Lonely Youth

Scenario: A youth ministry discovers that several teenagers have developed deep emotional attachments to AI chatbots, preferring them to human relationships.

Maria Luciana Axente's warning: 'People will not know how to form genuine connection with other humans. And they will form connections with avatars, with tools.' Dr. John Dyer deepens the concern: 'People are formed in the way of having relationships with machines that are always, always listening to them, always amenable to them, always wanting to please them. And that's not exactly how human relationships always work out.' This isn't just a pastoral problem. It's a formation crisis. The church's response isn't to ban AI—it's to build communities so compelling, so genuinely present, that no algorithm can substitute for them.

Questions to Consider

- How do we help youth recognize the difference between AI companionship and human relationship?
- What relational skills are being underdeveloped?
- How can the church provide authentic community that meets their needs?
- Should we address this from the pulpit? In small groups?

Principles in Play: Community vs. Dignity vs. Truth

Principle 06

Responsibility & Discernment

Truth, Transparency, and Wise Use

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best." — Philippians 1:9-10

The Principle

To glorify God and fulfill His command to love others, we must be truthful and transparent in our use of AI. This includes acknowledging the role of AI in any content or work we produce and ensuring we do not misrepresent machine-generated content as our own.

Accountability as Faithfulness

Maria Luciana Axente distinguishes between vision and action: 'AI ethics is a new domain of knowledge tasked with building a vision of a good life with AI... while responsible AI is a set of tactical disciplines aimed to make the vision a reality.' And she names the root issue: 'AI is not really the problem. Do you know who the problem is? Us. We've always been the problem. The problem and the solution.'

Yvonne Carlson models organizational responsibility: 'I went to the board of directors and I said... I need you to tell me, as the tech leader, where are my boundaries? And they said, 'Well, we trust you.' And I said, 'Oh no. I need a level of accountability.' So we also put together a technology advisory board.'

Liz Grennan captures the stakes: 'Trust is gained in drops and lost in buckets.' Her warning about scale is crucial: 'When you put a bias into a system that's scalable, you have bias at scale.'

"Responsible AI to me was ultimately the quality assurance of AI."— Liz Grennan

In Practice

- Clearly identify when AI has contributed to your work
- Maintain transparency about AI's capabilities and limitations
- Take responsibility for all AI-generated content you use or share
- Practice discernment in evaluating AI outputs against biblical truth
- Establish accountability structures for AI development and deployment
- Build AI governance boards with theological expertise

Reflection Questions

- Are you being transparent about AI's role in your work and content creation?
- What accountability structures exist for your AI usage and decisions?
- How are you practicing discernment in accepting or rejecting AI recommendations?
- Who holds you accountable for your AI decisions?

In Practice – Case Study

AI-Generated Sermons

Scenario: A pastor, exhausted from a demanding week, uses ChatGPT to generate Sunday's sermon without prayerful engagement with the material.

John Lennox's warning: 'The tired minister who's just been watching a late night film on Saturday night and has to preach in the morning and just looks up ChatGPT... it has not gone through any process of prayerful meditation before the Lord. Unless there's a process of prayerfully going through it and making it your own, you're in danger... You can usually tell within 30 seconds listening to a sermon whether a person has done that or not.' The issue isn't whether AI helped with research. The issue is whether the preacher has been with God.

Questions to Consider

- Is the congregation being deceived?
- What is lost when preaching bypasses spiritual preparation?
- Could AI assist research while the pastor retains spiritual formation?
- What does transparency require—disclosure that AI helped?

Principles in Play: Truth vs. Purpose vs. Responsibility

Principle 07

Guarding Against Deception

Anchoring in God's Truth

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" — John 14:6

The Principle

We recognize the potential for AI to generate false narratives, deepfakes, and deceptive content. Christians must remain vigilant and discerning, grounded in the truth of God's Word. We affirm that God's Word is the ultimate authority, and all uses of AI must be tested against His eternal truth.

Truth in an Age of Synthetic Content

Maria Luciana Axente explains AI's fundamental limitation with truth: 'What models like this will do will take a text and generate a string of words with the highest probability but not necessarily what's the truth.' On Scripture specifically: 'It will move a comma. It will change a word, which means that it will change the whole meaning of the sentence and the word of God. And we don't want to do this.'

John Lennox observes a troubling pattern: 'AI is developing characteristics that we normally associate with God. So it's not surprising that we already have AI religions developing around the world.' AI appears omnipresent, apparently omniscient, and increasingly powerful. These God-like attributes create conditions for misplaced worship.

Lord Wei names the counterfeit promise: 'The counterfeit is saying we can replace us and him with this.' His counsel for discernment: 'The first lesson we all are having to learn in this era of missional AI is how to, again, listen to the Holy Spirit. Go straight to the source, not from our own existing human archive.'

Real-world examples abound. Eric Celerier discovered HelloBible.ai claiming 'Matthew was a fisherman'—a hallucination that seemed plausible but was factually wrong. The 'liar's dividend' problem means even real stories can be falsely labeled as AI-generated, eroding all trust.

In Practice

- Verify information rather than accepting AI outputs uncritically
- Test all content against Scripture and biblical principles
- Recognize deepfakes and synthetic media that distort reality
- Guard against AI-generated content that contradicts biblical truth
- Maintain spiritual discernment as primary filter for AI usage
- Never use AI for Scripture translation without human theological review

Reflection Questions

- How are you verifying the truthfulness of AI-generated content you consume or share?
- What spiritual practices help you maintain discernment in an AI-saturated environment?
- Where might you be vulnerable to deception through AI-powered persuasion or content?
- How do you distinguish AI-generated religious content from Spirit-inspired wisdom?

In Practice – Case Study

Bible Translation AI

Scenario: An organization uses AI to draft Bible translations in minority languages, with human reviewers checking the output.

AI drafts are often very natural-sounding but contain inaccuracies. Teams find it easier to correct natural-sounding text than highly literal but unnatural text—but ease of correction can breed complacency. Eric Celerier’s discovery of HelloBible.ai claiming ‘Matthew was a fisherman’ illustrates the danger: a hallucination that sounds plausible is more dangerous than one that sounds obviously wrong. The consensus among practitioners: AI is an assistive tool, not a replacement. Final translation authority must always remain with human theological teams who understand both the language and the living Word.

Questions to Consider

- What verification processes ensure accuracy?
- How do you handle languages where AI performs poorly?
- Who bears responsibility for errors that reach publication?
- How do you respect copyright in training data?

Principles in Play: Truth vs. Stewardship vs. Dignity

Living with Tension: When Principles Collide

These seven principles don't exist in neat isolation. In real ministry contexts, they often pull in different directions, forcing difficult trade-offs.

Privacy vs. Transparency

James Poulter identifies this as 'probably the most challenging for alignment': 'In privacy, the motivation is to protect the privacy of the individual... And then on the other end of the spectrum is about being transparent about how you're using the tools and the models.' He notes the theological complexity: 'I don't know that we have a theological definition of privacy specifically. In a world where Scripture tells us God kind of goes everywhere and kind of knows everything, then technically nothing is private from him, although you keep it private from one another.'

Stewardship vs. Dignity

Efficiency serves good stewardship—but at what cost to human purpose and employment? Poulter frames it: 'We have a stewardship ethic of also wanting to be efficient with what we do, and maybe in some cases that might mean a few less people doing it.' The crucial distinction: 'When the role becomes economically unviable, we're not saying the person is economically unviable. We're just saying that what that person needs to do is something else.'

The Vendor Ethics Question

Should Christians use AI tools from companies whose values conflict with Scripture? Poulter acknowledges: 'I think the individual technology and the tool is neutral, but the companies that create them are not.' This question—whether to boycott specific AI vendors based on their policies—is one each individual and organization must wrestle with.

How to Navigate Tensions

- Name the tension explicitly — Don't pretend there's an easy answer
- Identify which principles are in play — Map the competing goods
- Consider context — What matters most in this specific situation?
- Seek communal wisdom — 'There's wisdom in the multitude of counselors'
- Make a provisional decision — Act with humility, knowing you may need to adjust
- Review and refine — Return to assess how the decision played out

Principles at a Glance

Use this one-page reference to quickly evaluate any AI decision against the seven principles.

Ask: does this implementation honor each one?

01 Dignity & Imago Dei

Every human bears God's image in ways AI cannot replicate. Protect the irreducible worth of persons in every AI application.

Gut check: Am I using AI in a way that honors or diminishes human dignity?

02 Purpose & Meaning

AI should support God-given callings, not replace the formative work of becoming. Build foundational skills; accelerate—don't bypass—with AI.

Gut check: Does this AI use serve my calling or distract from it?

03 Ethical Boundaries & Moral Guidance

Just because we can doesn't mean we should. Set firm limits, especially around Scripture, mental health, and pastoral care.

Gut check: What should be permanently off-limits for AI in my context?

04 Stewardship of Resources

We are stewards of AI, not its advocates. Measure success by human flourishing, not efficiency alone. Watch for who gets left behind.

Gut check: Who benefits—and who might be harmed—by this AI implementation?

05 Community & Relationality

Christianity is embodied and relational. AI that replaces human presence corrodes the body of Christ. Build communities too compelling to be replaced by algorithms.

Gut check: Does this AI strengthen or substitute for genuine human connection?

06 Responsibility & Discernment

Trust is gained in drops and lost in buckets. Be transparent about AI's role in your work. Build accountability before you need it.

Gut check: Who holds me accountable for my AI decisions?

07 Guarding Against Deception

AI generates plausible, not necessarily true, content. Test everything against Scripture. Never bypass human theological review for God's Word.

Gut check: How am I verifying what AI produces before I share or act on it?

Resources

Podcast

Weekly conversations on faith & AI
missional.ai/podcast

Blog

Discussions on faith and technology
missional.ai/blog

Video Library

A rich library of video talks from previous events
missional.ai/videos



Missional AI Global Summit 2026

April 7-9 · San Jose, Silicon Valley

These seven principles are the beginning of the conversation, not the end.

At Missional AI Global Summit 2026, you'll wrestle with them alongside hundreds of Christians from large tech organizations, churches and ministries.

All asking the same question:

How do we engage AI faithfully, for Kingdom advancement?

Register at missional.ai/register

Final Words

These principles live in tension with one another, prompting us to wrestle faithfully with complex choices. They call us to continually ask: Could AI do this? Should AI do this? And if so, how do we engage AI in a way that honors God and serves humanity?

“Go out and do something wonderful.”
— Pat Gelsinger, quoting Robert Noyce

“Here am I, Lord. Send me.”
— Isaiah 6:8

Equipping Christians to Faithfully Engage AI for Kingdom Advancement

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