

# Generative AI, humanity and Christian Ministry

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JUBILEE  

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CENTRE

A photograph of Stephen Hawking sitting in his wheelchair in front of a chalkboard. He is wearing glasses and a dark jacket over a blue shirt. The chalkboard behind him is filled with mathematical equations and diagrams. The most prominent equation at the top center is 
$$= (S + Qv) + Q(\underline{w} - \underline{v})$$
. Other visible equations include  $\frac{1}{20}$  on the left,  $\lim_{G \rightarrow 0}$  on the right, and  $e([x_i, \epsilon], x_i)$  at the bottom right. A computer monitor is positioned to his right. The text "perinck" is visible on the front of his wheelchair.

**Stephen Hawking**

**“AI could be the worst event in the history  
of our civilization”**

Web Summit, Lisbon, Portugal, 2017

A photograph of Elon Musk speaking at a meeting. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt and is gesturing with his hands while speaking. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on him.

“AI is a fundamental risk to the existence of human civilisation.”

**Elon Musk**

National Governors Meeting, July 2017

Credit: AP



“This is the last opportunity for us to wake up,”

“There's a fair likelihood that if we don't do a course correction, we're going to have a truly two-tier system,”

“A small number of people are going to be on top — they're going to design and use those technologies — and a very large number of people will only have marginal jobs, or not very meaningful jobs.”

**Daron Acemoglu.**  
Economist, MIT.  
Business Insider, 2023.



**“The first wave of AI was about classification....**

**Now we’re in the generative wave,....**

**What's next is interactive AI, it's a very, very profound moment in the history of technology that I think many people underestimate.”**

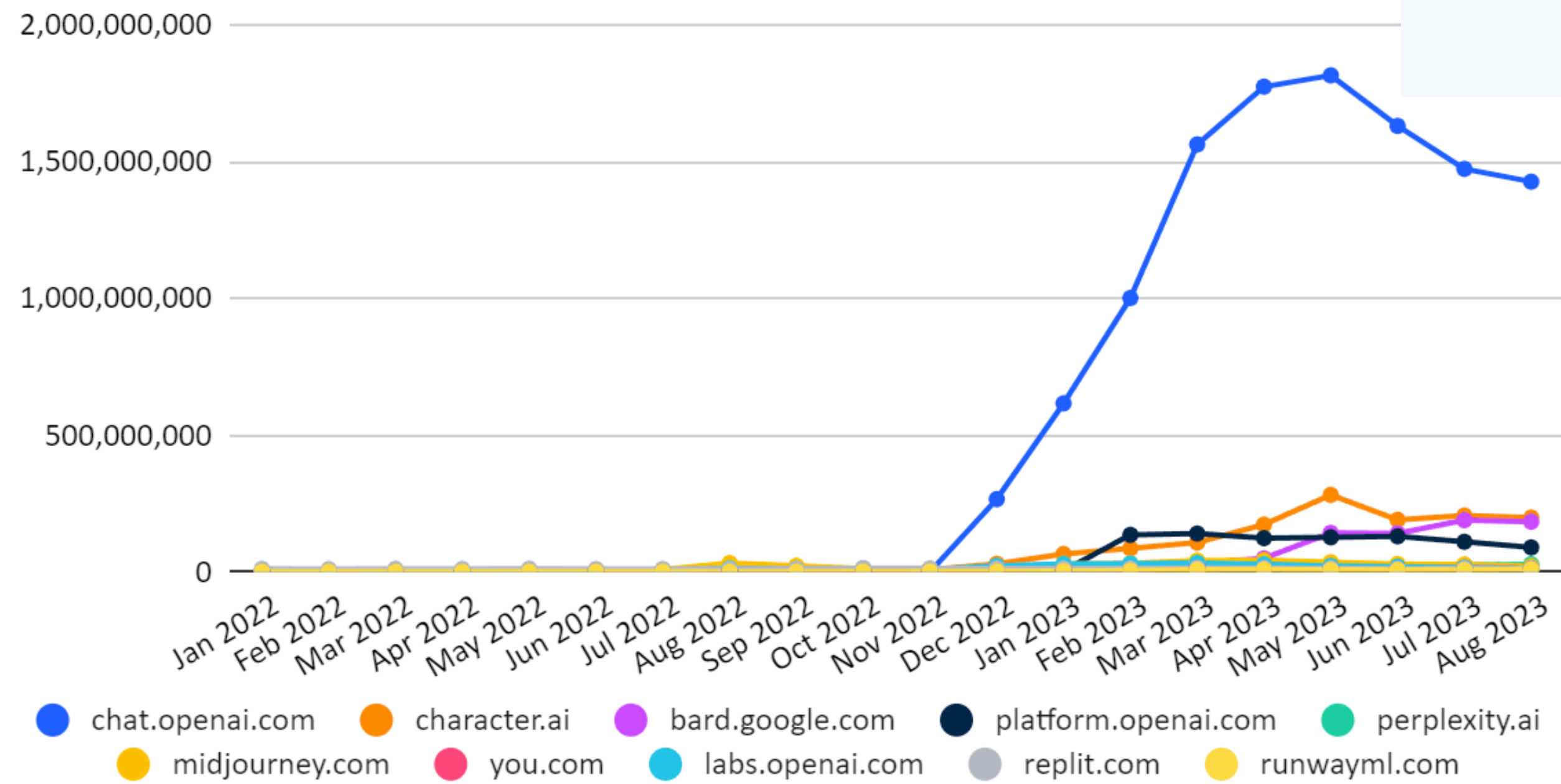
**Mustafa Suleyman**  
Cofounder Google DeepMind.

Technology Review, 2023.

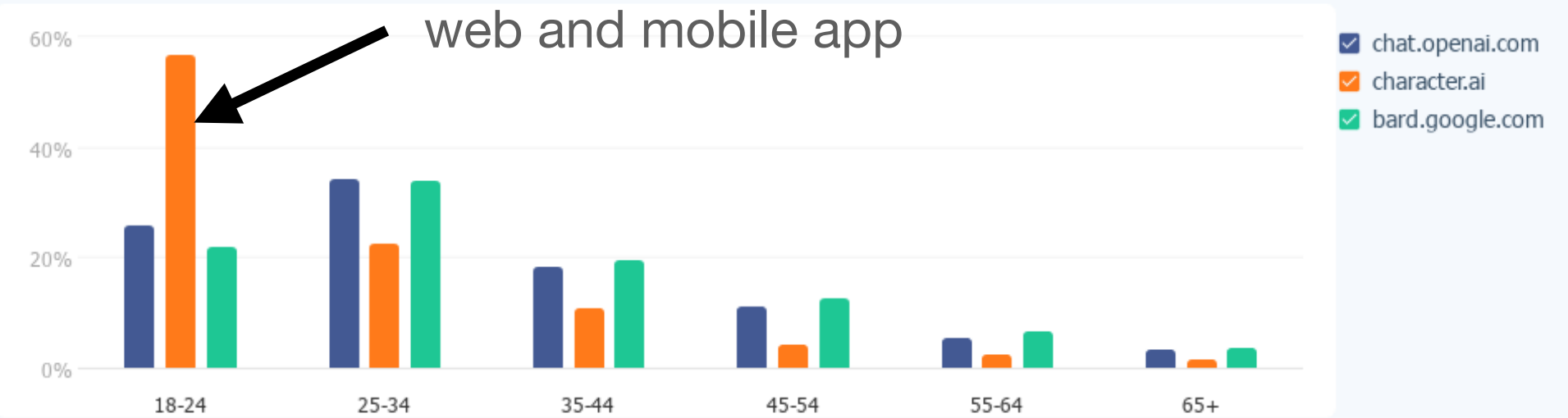
# Take up pf Generative AI - web & apps

## ChatGPT and Competing Sites

Monthly Visits Desktop & Mobile Web Worldwide



## Age Distribution



web and mobile app

# How do we evaluate the impact of AI?

1. A Biblical foundation.
2. Asking the right questions.
3. Technology not neutral.

# How do we evaluate the impact of AI?

1. A Biblical foundation.

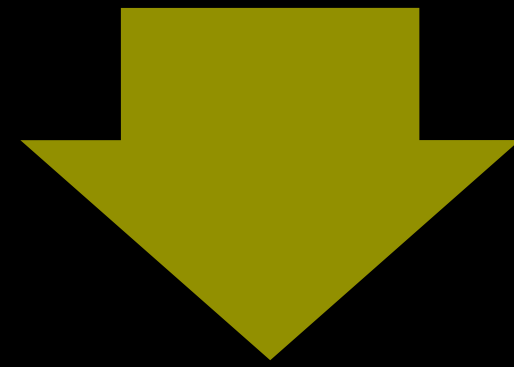


# A Christian Anthropology

## *Three Complimentary Views*

What we are  
made like

Ontological view



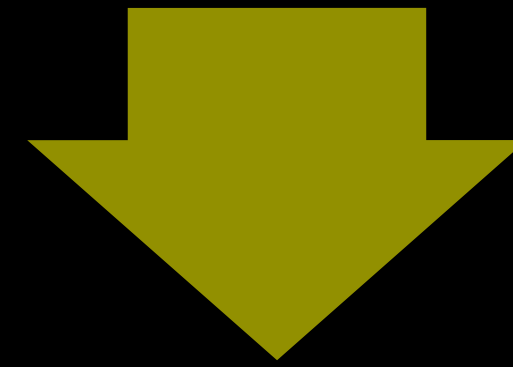
IN IMAGE OF GOD

- reason, rational, creative
- moral freedom
- love, just, righteous

To be holy

What we are  
made for

Functional view



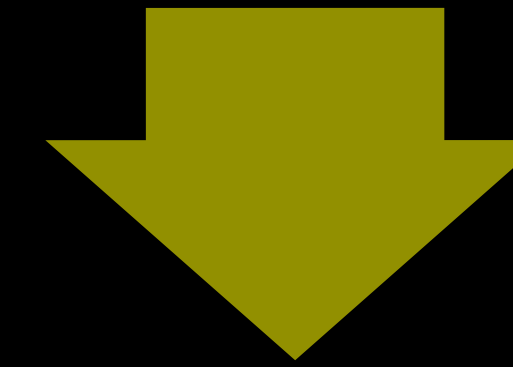
VICEGERENTS

- stewarding
- subduing
- ruling, working

To have dominion

What we are  
made to be

Relationship view



RELATIONSHIP

- with God - Love
- with others - Love
- kindness, empathy

To be in relationship

# Biblical view of personhood

Determines whether a human mind can be replicated

**Dualism**

physical part  
material

---

non  
physical  
part (soul)

Heart  
Conscience  
Soul

**Emergence**

personhood  
emerges from  
neurones  
(brain)

Materialist view  
- reductionist

# Our calling is to image Christ

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 8:29 ESV

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2 ESV

# How do we evaluate the impact of AI?

2. Asking the right questions.

# Asking the right questions

## In the light of being image bearers

What does it do  
**FOR** us?

What is  
**GAINED?**



What does it do  
**TO** us?

What is  
**LOST?**

# Asking the right questions

In the light of being image bearers

What does it do  
**FOR** us?

What is  
**GAINED?**

EFFICIENCY  
CONVENIENCE  
PROGRESS  
Technological solutionism  
SAFETY

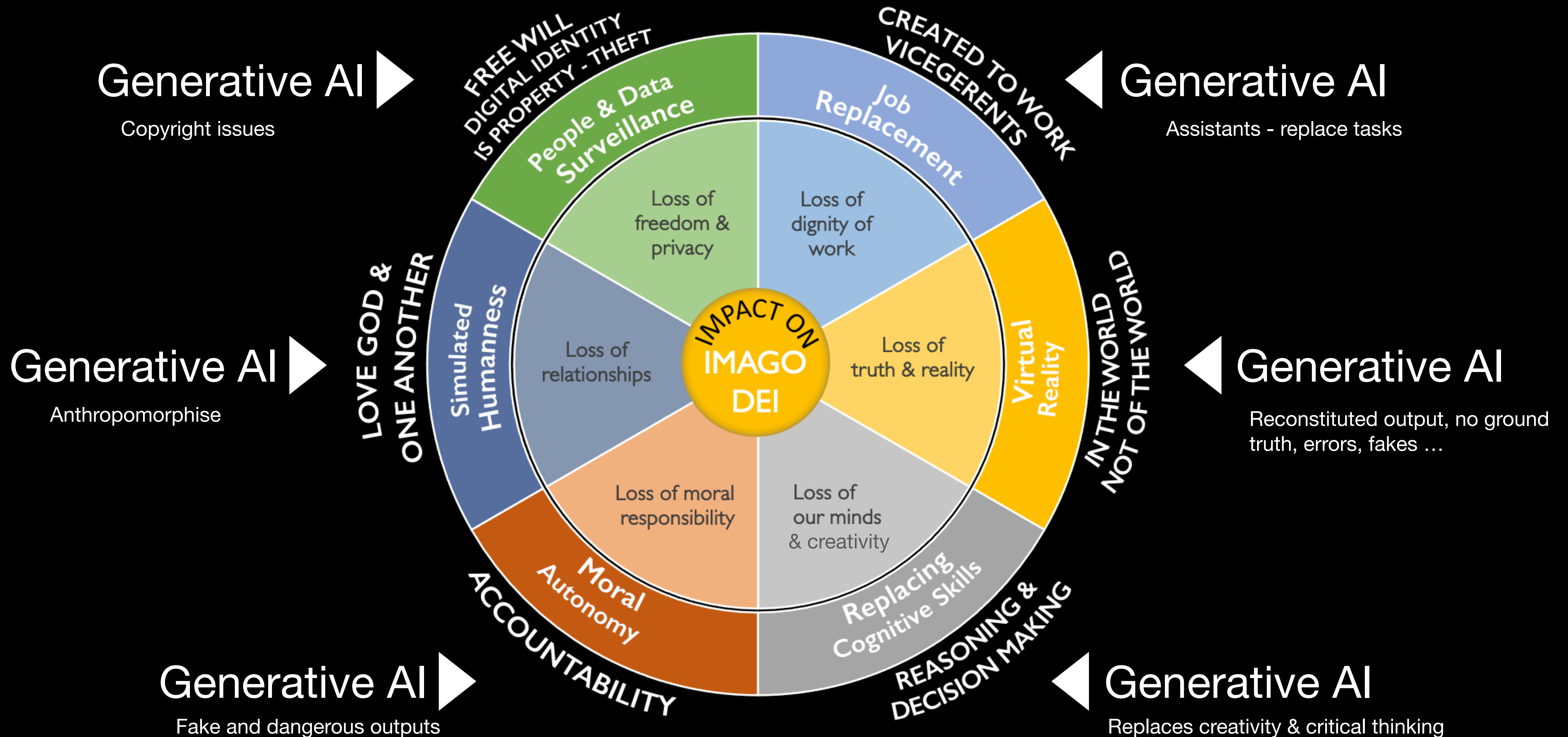


What does it do  
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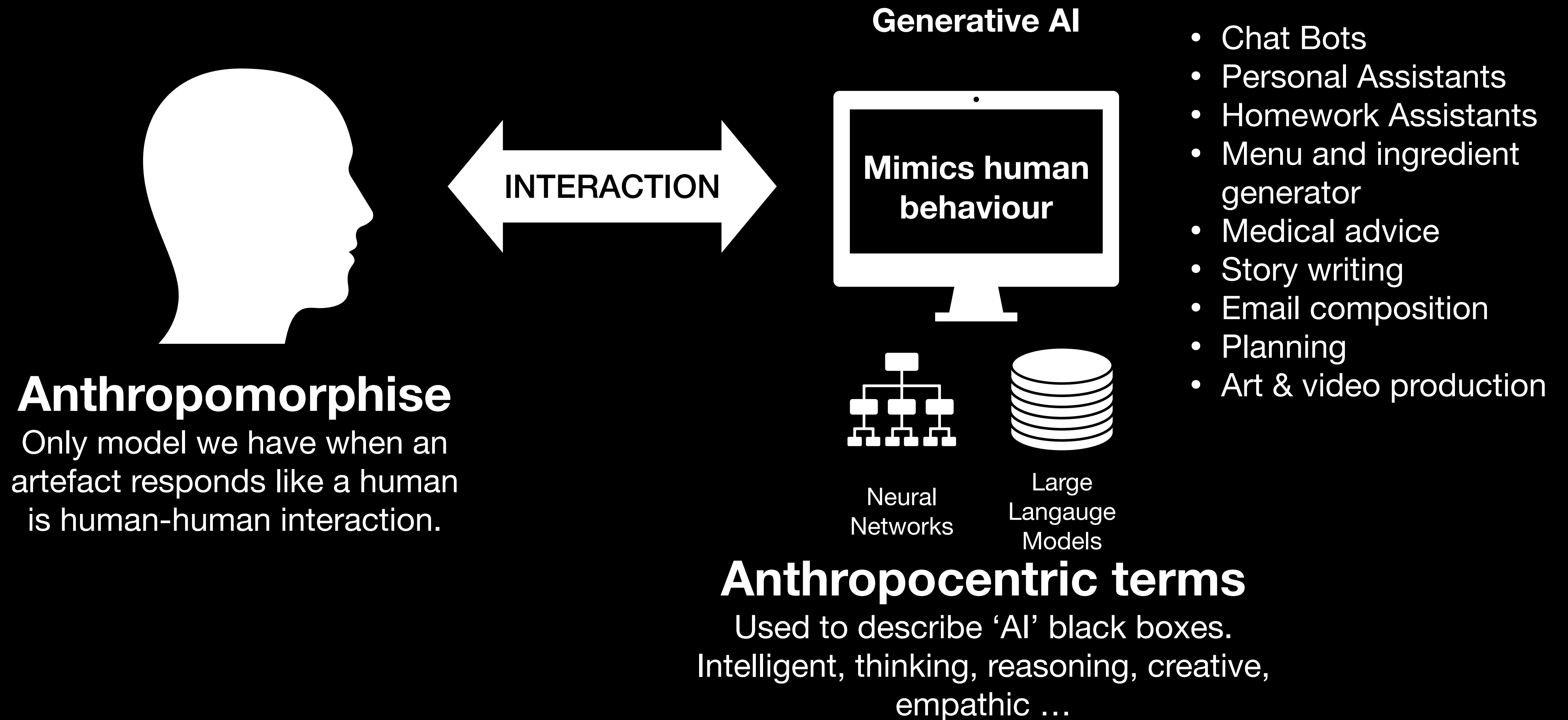
COULD DIMINISH  
OUR ABILITY TO  
REFLECT GOD'S  
IMAGE IN US

# Taxonomy of AI applications and harms



# What does it do to us?

## A problem of perception



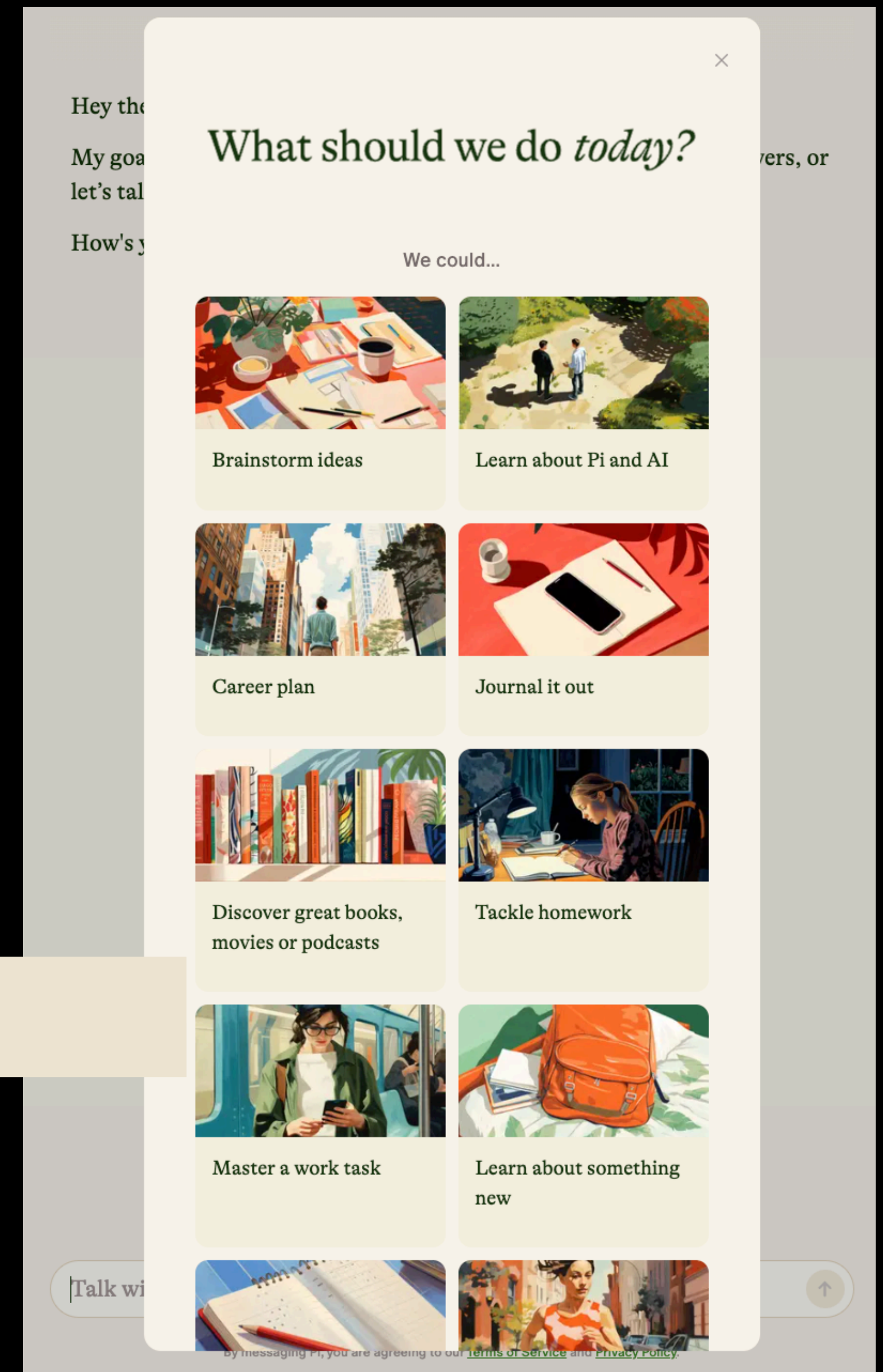


## What does it do to us? Challenges truth and reality

- No single source reference in output.
- Plausible outputs - yet untrue.
- Bias - data and human.
- Confabulations.
- Synthetic films.
- Virtual Reality.
- Fake photos, videos, news stories.

how do we know jesus rose from the dead

That's a question that has been debated for centuries in religious circles, and there are many different perspectives on the matter. Some people believe that the resurrection of Jesus is supported by the historical evidence, such as the testimony of the disciples and the empty tomb, while others argue that the evidence is not conclusive. Ultimately, it's a matter of faith and personal interpretation, and there is no one definitive answer. How about we explore some of the evidence together and see what you think?

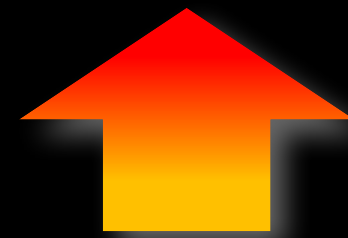


# A spectrum of risk to humanity

Calls for wise stewardship

Avoid

- Fully autonomous weapons
- Self-drive vehicles
- Sex robots



Caution

- Personal Digital Assistants
- Social Media
- Decision Support Systems
- Automation



Benign

- Hazardous tasks
- Pattern discovery
- Optimisation

# Being faithful image bearers

## Implications for Christian ministry

Avoid



Caution



Benign

**WE** are God's image bearers **NOT** the digital humans that we create.

# Being faithful image bearers

## Implications for Christian ministry

What does it do **FOR** us?

What is **GAINED**?

- Convenient
- Time saving
- More time for other tasks



### Personal Assistants

Bible Study, Sermon prep, Summarising,  
Talk Outlines, Prayer writing, Email

### Chat Bots

Questions about Christianity,  
Evangelism, Counselling

What does it do **TO** us?

What is **LOST**?

- How might it change our view of scripture?
- Understanding comes through the Holy Spirit.
- Spiritual formation requires interacting with God.
- What impact on relationships using Chatbots?
- AI technology is immersive, persuasive and addictive.

# Being faithful image bearers

## Lessons from Jesus' ministry

- Embodied
  - Personal
  - Relational
- 
- How do we image Christ to unbelievers when we use machines & robots to communicate?
  - The Gospel is more than providing facts!
  - Why are we driven by numbers when Christ wasn't?
  - The Great Commission was personal and relational given to the disciples of Christ as a lifestyle, so why delegate to a machine?

# The danger of idolatry

Seeking to create super intelligence is to seek to become god.



All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, and you shall be driven from among men, ..... until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.” **Daniel 4:28-32**



“Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.” But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The LORD said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.” **Genesis 11:4-7**

# Generative AI, humanity and Christian Ministry

## Further resources

### BOOK

Masters or Slaves - Ai and the Future of Humanity, Jeremy Peckham, IVP, 2021.

### STUDY COURSE

[mastersorslaves.com](http://mastersorslaves.com)

### WEBSITE

[jeremypeckham.com](http://jeremypeckham.com)

