

The Concurrently Companion



Episode 58: DALL-E, creativity, and slow learning (with Dr. Michael Finch)

Topic introduction

Key terms and recommended books: *ChatGPT, DALL-E, Midjourney, Discord, deepfake, consuming, creating, Technopoly by Neil Postman, Amusing Ourselves to Death by Neil Postman, fast vs. slow learning, Bloom's taxonomy, The Four Loves by C.S. Lewis, "love" (storge, philia, agape, eros), slow relating*

Questions

What "AIs" (notice the quotation marks) can you name off the top of your head? What are they used for—what are their jobs or tasks or realm of "expertise"/programming?

What makes them different from one another? What similarities do you notice?

What is their potential (what can they do)? How are they limited? What do you notice about their dependence on humans?

What is our first stage or mode of learning as humans (according to Dr. Finch)? How does this relate to how we can engage with AI-type tools?

How do both logic and creative thinking come into our interaction with AI? What is the benefit of this synthesis? What can be the downside?

We may not have the "processing power," but we can still outthink these thinking machines. How are we uniquely wired (as image-bearers) to do what they cannot? Name at least one positive example and one negative one.

What can we affirm and what should we challenge about AI and its varied applications?

How has our relationship to technology—tools—changed throughout the ages? What dangers come with that territory? What are good ways we could relate to AI? What are definitively bad (biblically speaking) ways we could relate to AI?

What is the difference between consuming and creating?

How can we steward AI to protect during especially vulnerable developmental stages and/or utilize it to maintain our cognitive function?

Accepting the reality that households will begin to look more and more like The Jetsons in the next 10 to 15 years, what practical lessons can we instill in our children to enable their identification of AI, relationship to it, trust in it, and reliance on it? How do we navigate trust in AI and reliance on it, especially through the framework of C.S. Lewis' *The Four Loves*?

Why would I choose technology before a book or a relationship? What is it about my head or my heart? What propels me to pick up my phone instead?

C.S. Lewis said, "To love at all is to be vulnerable." Is it really love, if you are not risking hurt? Explain.

Scriptural anchors/provision

So that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God, not a wisdom of this age, or the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away, but the wisdom of God, which He decreed before the ages, for our glory. As it is written: "What no eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor the heart of man has imagined, God has prepared for those who love Him."
— from 1 Corinthians 2:5-9

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