They're Here: How Artificial Intelligence Can Impact Your Counseling

Artificial Intelligence will provide numerous benefits and efficiencies, as with all technology and social media. Like technology and social media, it will also lead to different paths of temptation and manifestation of sin. How can we start to prepare to be effective in our counseling ministry**?** What biblical principles guide us?

I.   What is Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence, or AI, is technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human intelligence and problem-solving capabilities. On its own or combined with other technologies AI can perform tasks that would otherwise require human intelligence or intervention.

"Weak AI" or "Narrow AI" is AI trained and focused to perform specific tasks. This is most common today, including Apple's Siri, Amazon's Alexa, IBM watsonx, and self-driving cars.

"Strong AI" or "General AI" is where a machine would have an intelligence equal to humans, it would be self-aware with a consciousness that would have the ability to solve problems, learn, and plan for the future. Artificial superintelligence would surpass the intelligence and ability of the human brain. While strong AI is still entirely theoretical with no practical examples in use today, that doesn't mean AI researchers aren't exploring its development.

—-IBM Artificial Intelligence

Q. What is artificial intelligence?
A. It is the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs. It is related to the similar task of using computers to understand human intelligence, but AI does not have to confine itself to methods that are biologically observable.

Q. Yes, but what is intelligence?
A. Intelligence is the computational part of the ability to achieve goals in the world. Varying kinds and degrees of intelligence occur in people, many animals and some machines.

Q. Isn't there a solid definition of intelligence that doesn't depend on relating it to human intelligence?

A. Not yet. The problem is that we cannot yet characterize in general what kinds of computational procedures we want to call intelligent. We understand some of the mechanisms of intelligence and not others.

> *What is Artificial Intelligence?*
> John McCarthy Computer Science Dept, Stanford University, 2007

II. General positives and applications of AI

Speech recognition-

Customer Service-

"Computer vision"-

Supply chain-

Weather forecasting-

Fraud monitoring-

Medical diagnostics-

III. What should we be aware of in our counseling ministry?

Biblical principles:

Cautions to watch for in our counseling ministry: