

# **Understanding Human Identity in an AI Age**

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## **Abstract**

This paper examines the consequences of artificial intelligence (AI) and technology integration on human identity, particularly from a Christian theological perspective. Drawing on insights from Susanna Lindberg and Bernard Stiegler, we analyse the interactions between human abilities and technology, emphasising both the opportunities and challenges presented to the Christian community. The discussion centres on the concepts of “prosthetic existence,” the dangers of excessive dependence on technology, and the ethical and spiritual responsibilities that Christians must uphold when engaging with these advancements.

## **Preface**

Advancements in artificial intelligence and technology challenge traditional conceptions of humanity. As humans and AI systems interact more frequently, questions arise concerning the boundaries of human identity, particularly within theological frameworks. This study utilises concepts from Lindberg and Stiegler to examine these intersections, focusing on Christian anthropology and our understanding of ourselves as created in the image of God.

## **Dependence on Technology: An Aspect of Humanity**

Lindberg introduces the notion of “prosthetic existence,” arguing that people have historically used tools and technologies to enhance their abilities, a practice fundamental to human life. From a Christian viewpoint, this notion aligns with the belief that human creativity and intellect are divine gifts intended for societal growth and betterment (Genesis 1:26–28). As technology becomes integral to daily life, it raises theological questions about our fidelity to our God-given identity. Christians are tasked with reconciling technological advancement with a consciousness of God’s purpose for humanity, ensuring that our tools do not redefine our identity or overshadow our dependence on the Creator.

## **Artificial Intelligence and the Hazards of Contemporary Society**

Stiegler’s thesis addresses the hazards associated with technological dependency in what he calls the “Anthropocene”—a period marked by humanity’s profound impact on the Earth. He introduces the concept of “artificial stupidity,” cautioning that increased reliance on technology could erode critical thinking and decision-making abilities. This is especially significant for Christians, as dependence on AI may divert attention from seeking God’s wisdom and depending on the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Proverbs 2:6). Stiegler’s warnings remind us that, while technology may enhance life, it should not replace our relationship with God or our spiritual discernment.

## **The Convergence of Faith and Technology**

Lindberg and Stiegler argue that technology transcends its function as a mere tool; it shapes our interactions and, eventually, our identities. For Christians, this underscores the importance of using technology in alignment with God's intentions—promoting growth, compassion, and stewardship. Technology should be regarded as a tool to benefit God's creation, rather than as a force that reshapes our values or identities. This balanced perspective is essential for a Christian life that seeks to honour God while engaging with the technological innovations that characterise our age.

### **A Christian Perspective on the Technological Future**

As Christians face a future increasingly defined by technology, a balanced approach of optimism and prudence is essential. We are called to celebrate creativity and knowledge as gifts from God (1 Peter 4:10), using them to improve lives and care for creation. It is equally crucial to maintain spiritual equilibrium, ensuring that technology aids us without detracting from our devotion to God.

The Christian community must engage with questions of identity, stewardship, and responsibility in an era where the line between human and machine is increasingly blurred. How can we ensure that our use of technology reflects God's love and creativity? How do we preserve our identity as individuals created in His image (Ephesians 2:10) amidst these transformations?

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the integration of AI and other advanced technologies calls for a redefined understanding of human identity—one that acknowledges the role of technology while remaining attuned to divine purpose. By engaging with these tools thoughtfully and spiritually, Christians can navigate the modern age in a way that aligns with God's design, encouraging both human and spiritual growth.

### **References**

1. Lindberg, Susanna. *Robust Artificial Intelligence and Theological Anthropology*.
2. Stiegler, Bernard. *Robust Artificial Intelligence and Theological Anthropology*.
3. *The Bible*: Genesis 1:26–28; Proverbs 2:6; 1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 2:10.