

# Biblical Philosophy of Technology

## **Policy Statement:**

Enlightium Academy makes use of technology that is either (a) developed from biblical presuppositions and principles or (b) can be redeemed by biblical presuppositions and principles. Any technology with unbiblical ends forming its design in a way limiting its function to those ends would be unsuitable for use at Enlightenment Academy.<sup>1</sup> In this way and guided by our statement of faith and Spiritual Support department approval, employees are encouraged to wisely utilize technology for their daily responsibilities and duties. In addition, teachers are encouraged to equip students with adequate knowledge and responsible use of technology so that each student is prepared to lead the next generation in redemptive stewardship of God's good creation.

## **Reasoning behind and Explanation of Policy:**

As God's image bearers, human creativity in both thought and deed is *expressive* of God's creative nature. The invention and advancement of technology—including generative artificial intelligence (GAI) applications such as ChatGPT—are products of human creativity and therefore must be assessed within the context of expressing God's image. While moral goodness or evil does not inhere in the technology itself, it does arise in the "interactions between humans and technology."<sup>2</sup> Thus, the morality of a specific technology is contextual,<sup>3</sup> meaning that moral goodness or evil only arises in the application of that technology in a specific context that is determined by, but not limited to, the agent's motive and intent, knowledge of possible outcomes, and telos. Consequently, each specific technology and its application must be evaluated separately, with an eye toward *if* and *how* that technology can be used to honor God<sup>4</sup> and his redemptive purposes in education.

## **Whom to address questions or concerns pertaining to technology use at Enlightenment?**

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<sup>1</sup> For technology arguably embedded with unbiblical intentions (some of which are debated among theologians and ethicists, particularly) and thereto unbiblical functions, see the following technologies: bioweaponry, atomic weaponry, and torture devices (war tech); malware and ransomware (cyber tech); gene editing and GMO (genetic tech). While biblical educators are held to a higher standard of God's Word than secular standards (1 Cor. 6:2–3), secular standards can discern that some technology is unusable (e.g., Bioweapons). Therefore, Enlightenment discerns that some technology results in a moral wrong *when used* by a moral agent (see "Reasoning behind and Explanation of Policy").

<sup>2</sup> Peter-Paul Verbeek, "The Empirical Turn," in *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Technology*, ed. Shannon Vallor (New York: Oxford University Press, 2022), p. 43.

<sup>3</sup> To alleviate any misguided concerns, "contextual" is not the same as "relative" as the word is used here. Whereas moral relativism (e.g., ethical subjectivism, cultural relativism, emotivism, etc.) claims that there are no moral absolutes, the word "contextual" does not necessarily imply this. It only means that while there are moral absolutes, one cannot determine the morality of a piece of technology without considering specific items in the application of that technology in each unique context. Thus, the use of the term is compatible with a biblical ethic that affirms the existence of objective, universal moral norms that are ultimately grounded in the unchanging nature of God and clearly communicated both in the life of Christ and the Bible.

<sup>4</sup> Matt. 6:9; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17

EA directors are involved in supporting questions or concerns with technology. Depending on the nature of questions or concerns, specific directors are available for answering and guiding the matter. If a question or concern is related to implementing a new technology or enriching Enlightium's current technology, ideas and general inquiries should be directed to the head of department who can then collaborate with the Headmaster. If a question or concern is related to the proper use of technology, questions or concerns should be directed to the Director of Spiritual Support or the Director of Business Operations and Human Resources (If questions are directed via email, the Headmaster may be cc'ed as well). The Spiritual Support Director can support inquiries related to biblical standpoints on the use of technology at Enlightium, and the Director of Business Operations and Human Resources can support inquiries related to technology and its compliance with employment and employee practices.

### **Resources**

[The Christian Educator as Prophet, Priest, and King: Nurturing Moral Formation in a ChatGPT Era by B.J. Condrey, Ph.D.](#)

Dr. Condrey's article provides additional understanding on the relationship between morality and technology, especially how educators might make use of technology in a way that honors Christ and His kingdom.