

# Ministry via Bot: AI Dangers and the Church

Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a transformative tool in numerous industries, including education, health care and entertainment. Its application in church ministries has also been explored, offering opportunities to enhance communication, streamline administrative tasks and increase outreach efforts. However, with the growing prevalence of AI-powered text tools, there is an urgent need to examine the potential misuses of these technologies from the church pulpit and their negative implications for ministry and the fulfillment of God's Great Commission. While AI holds the promise of advancing ministry efforts, its misuse can distort biblical truths, compromise pastoral integrity and undermine the spiritual mission of the church.

## Misrepresentation of Scripture

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One of the primary risks of using AI text tools from the pulpit is the potential for misrepresentation of Bible truths. While AI tools are adept at analyzing and generating text based on vast amounts of data, they lack the essential qualities of spiritual discernment, a personal relationship with God and an understanding of divine revelation. Pastors and church leaders who rely on AI-generated sermons or interpretations without thorough personal review risk inadvertently presenting inaccurate or incomplete theological concepts to their congregations.

For example, an AI tool might generate a sermon that aligns more with secular ideologies or cultural trends than the timeless truths of Scripture, with the potential to lead

congregants astray. This misalignment can occur because AI lacks the ability to understand the nuances of biblical language, the significance of cultural and historical contexts and the spiritual depth of divine inspiration. AI might interpret a passage literally when it is meant metaphorically or miss the deeper theological implications of a text due to its limited comprehension of spiritual principles.

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The use of AI without proper oversight can also lead to shallow, generic or overly simplistic interpretations of complex biblical teachings. Such errors may misrepresent God's Word, reducing its richness and depth to mere data points. Furthermore, congregants who recognize inconsistencies or inaccuracies in AI-generated content may lose trust in their pastors and other church leaders, questioning their ability to rightly handle the Word of truth. This erosion of trust could negatively affect the spiritual authority and credibility of pastors, leading to confusion and doubt among believers.

The Word of God demands careful exegesis, prayerful study and a deep reliance on the Holy Spirit for guidance—elements that algorithms cannot replicate. Pastors and leaders have a sacred responsibility to ensure that the truths they communicate are rooted in sound doctrine and faithfully represent God's message. Misuse of AI in this area risks distorting Scripture, weakening the spiritual foundation of the church and jeopardizing the faith journey of its members.

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