

AI DECISION TREE

A 5-question filter for Christian leaders deciding when (and when not) to use AI.

Most AI debates collapse into "AI good" or "AI bad." Neither is true. The 5-Filter framework below applies to any task you are tempted to delegate to Claude, ChatGPT, Gemini, or another LLM. Run every task through every filter. If any filter says no, do not use AI for that task.

01

STEWARDSHIP

Q: Does using AI for this task multiply faithful work that I could not do otherwise — or replace work that God called ME to do?

YES if AI helps you serve more people, write more carefully, decide more wisely. NO if AI is doing the discipling, the praying, the parenting, or the discerning that is yours to do.

02

TRUTH

Q: Will I verify the AI output against Scripture and trusted human counsel — or treat it as authoritative?

YES if you have time to check, edit, and cross-reference. NO if you are publishing or acting on AI output without verification. AI is fluent, not trustworthy.

03

IDENTITY

Q: Does using AI for this task affirm or distort the image of God in me, my readers, or anyone the output touches?

YES if AI is a tool that frees you for higher work. NO if you outsource encouragement, pastoral counsel, prayer, or conversations that another person has the right to have with the real you.

04

RELATIONSHIP

Q: Would I be embarrassed if the recipient knew an AI produced this?

YES if the task is execution (research, summarization, scheduling, code). NO if the task is connection (apology, condolence, encouragement, leadership communication that requires your voice).

05

WORSHIP

Q: Am I asking AI to do something only God can do — predict the future, name my identity, define right and wrong, or replace prayer?

YES if you are running an idea, learning a skill, drafting a document. NO if you are asking for the meaning of life, what God wants for you, or what is true about who you are.

COMMON USE CASES SCORED

Quick verdicts on the most common Christian-leader AI questions. Use as a starting point, not a final word.

USE AI FOR

- Research before a sermon, talk, or board meeting (verify sources)
- Summarizing a long document for skim-and-decide
- Drafting a first pass of structured communication you will then edit
- Code, formulas, scheduling, and pure execution work
- Generating questions you might be asked so you can prepare answers

AVOID AI FOR

- Writing prayers, meditations, or anything you will speak as your own
- Pastoral counsel, marriage advice, grief support, biblical counseling
- Theological interpretation, sermon writing without heavy editing
- Apologies, condolences, or anything requiring your real voice
- Asking what God wants for your life or what is true about your identity

VERIFY BEFORE USE

- Bible verses (AI hallucinates references; check every citation)
- Theological claims (lane matters; orthodox Protestant is not its default)
- Statistics, history, names, dates (high hallucination rate)
- Anything you will publish, sign, or be held accountable for