

SCIENCE AND FAITH

THEOLOGY ON TAP | AUGUST 8, 2017

We can increasingly do anything – or nearly anything – thanks to our technological and scientific advancements. We're now capable of instant world-wide communication, seeing towards the ends of the universe, eavesdrop on people from outers pace while they're in their private homes, even create designer babies with the genetic make up that we desire. On a certain level we are nearly – or have become – god-like in our power.

What do you like about science or technology? Why?
What infuriates you about technology? How?

Where is the line for you between science and faith? How do you decide what is beyond our control and best interest as human beings and what we should improve upon, tweak or adapt with our emerging knowledge and technology?

MATHEMATICS & CONTROLLING THE ACTIONS OF OTHER PEOPLE FROM AFAR:

With algorithms, we can now nearly predict in advance what someone will do. It sounds quite similar to what Psalm 139 says about God:

- ¹*O Lord, you have searched me and known me.*
²*You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.*
³*You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.*
⁴*Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.*
⁵*You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.*
⁶*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it. Psalm 139:1-6*

Should we be able to listen in on any and everyone on the planet in order to catch “bad guys”? ; or use technological tools to predict deviant (or resistant to the majority) behavior before it even happens? Or does that dehumanize us – and the image of God within each of us – by invading, and limiting, our privacy? How does such power intersect our understanding of God as all-knowing and all-powerful?

We are mapping the human genome, able to detect deficient genes, that we might even be able to turn on or off to wipe out disease, or eliminate unwanted genetic codes and traits. **Is that a good thing for eradicating disease and bringing healing? Or is that something that could easily lead to an eugenic cleansing of unwanted people, genders, orientations, or races? How does your faith impact your view? How does your view intersect the thoughts of Psalm 139 about God creating us and knowing us?**

¹³ *For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*

¹⁴ *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.*

¹⁵ *My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.*

¹⁶ *Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed. – Psalm 139:13-16*