

# CHRISTIAN FAITH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## Session] n 2: The Person and the Robot

**Scriptures: Genesis 2:4-9; 15-26**

**Theology: Incarnation, Word; Wisdom; Mystey**

**Method: Scripture; Tradition; Reason; Experience**

Science and technology are the outcomes of human thinking and creativity. These fields are amoral—but the human being has moral character. We are given the knowledge of good and evil. We are made in God’s image. We are sinners.

Scientific discovery provides the foundation for ***applied science*** (technology).

### **The Five Dimensions of Technological Innovation**

- ❖ **Communication:**
- ❖ **Mechanization**
- ❖ **Automation/Power**
- ❖ **Medicine**
- ❖ **Computation**

Each dimension of applied science/technology brings about blessing and curse. Some developments are intended or unintended seen and unforeseen.

All scientific discovery and all applied science/technology has influences on human beings—as individuals, groups and societies.

### **Discovery/Development of Human Psyche (late 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

- ❖ **Psychological “forces”**
- ❖ **Mapping of the brain**
- ❖ **Monitoring/modifying behavior**

The primary effect of technological development: **automation and robotics**

**The theological response: *incarnation*.** Incarnation is the foundation for **Christian community, and personal identity. and interaction**

### **Five challenges of automation/robotics**

- ❖ **Increase in productivity**
- ❖ **Reduction of risk**
- ❖ **Reduction/elimination of error (perfection)**
- ❖ **Workforce reduction and factory closings**
- ❖ **Depersonalization**

One secular approach that mirrors Christian faith amidst automation is the **STEM” educational process**. A key element: **emotional intelligence**.

What robotics lack:

- ❖ **Sentience (feelings)**
- ❖ **Relationship**
- ❖ **Values**
- ❖ **Faith**

### **Christian Faith Challenge to Automaton**

The Church’s response: **spiritual intelligence; forgiveness’; discipleship, giftedness and value of the person to God**.