



A weekly resource to spark biblically-centered conversations with your kids about the issues they face in today's youth culture.

CHATGPT AND TODAY'S TEEN

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Christian parents need to approach the artificial intelligence (AI) tools that our kids are using with caution and balance so that they are both protected from the negatives and equipped to enjoy the benefits of AI technology like ChatGPT or Google's Bard. And if you aren't convinced, I asked ChatGPT "Should parents be concerned about kids using ChatGPT?" The introductory sentence to the bot's answer? "As an AI language model, I can provide some perspective on the topic, but it's important to note that the responsibility ultimately rests with parents and caregivers!"



WORLD

What is Happening?

ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence assistant similar to Siri or Alexa but considerably more powerful, intelligent, and interactive. Unlike those popular chatbots, ChatGPT doesn't use voice commands. A user simply types in a question and ChatGPT sifts through billions of online data sources to answer complex questions, solve math problems, write essays, and much more all in a matter of seconds.

Parents should be paying attention because, as the following statistics indicate, ChatGPT is here to stay:

- ChatGPT was released by OpenAI on November 30, 2022 to immediate success as one million users flooded the site after just 5 days
- It quickly became the fastest growing app in internet history reaching the 100 million plateau in just 2.5 months (for comparison, it took Facebook 4.5 years to reach that level!)
- The number of users passed the 1.6 billion mark in March of 2023 and over 10 million queries are now answered every day

ChatGPT's explosive growth can be attributed to its extreme ease of use, free price tag, and the seemingly endless variety of applications in life and school settings. Teenagers use ChaptGPT at home to seek relationship and sexual advice, figure out complicated life topics, prepare for job interviews and get resume help, to name a few.

Students use AI in school as a smarter search engine, to create review questions for tests, and to brainstorm ideas for essays. But the simple fact that it can significantly help with homework and writing papers makes it a huge draw for teens.



ChatGPT



WORD

What Does God's Word Say?

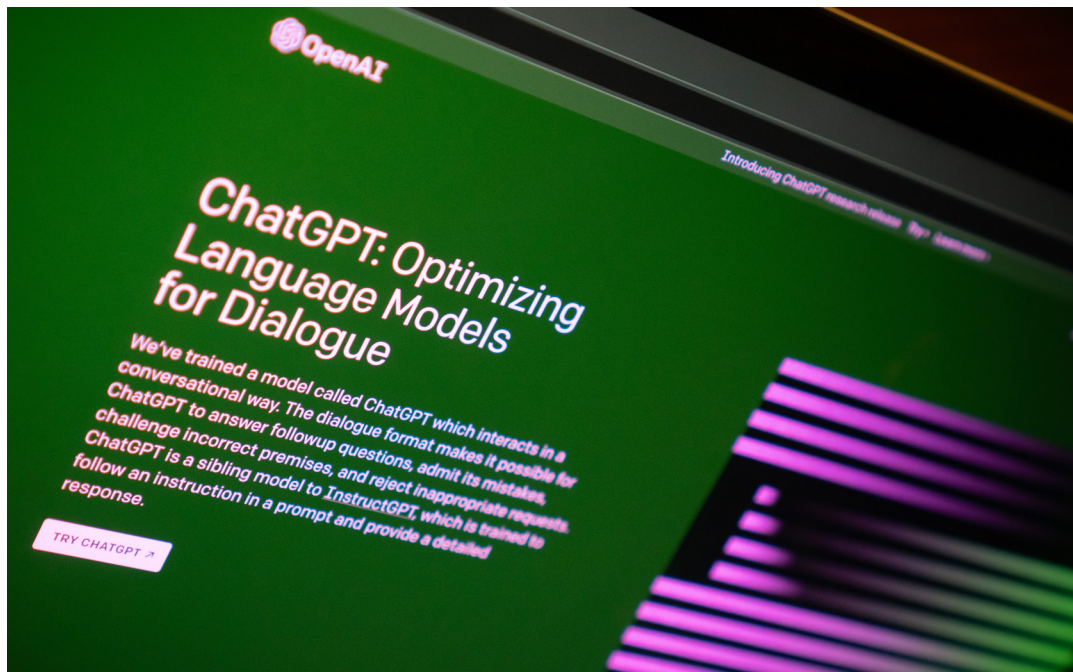
When utilized correctly, ChatGPT can be of great benefit to our children and their education. But just like anything else, it carries with it the possibility of being abused and used for harm. God's Word keeps us on the right path at this point.

Parents are to maintain their God-given role of leading and guiding their children. ChatGPT is not a replacement for parental supervision in the education process. Despite the overwhelming amount of data available to AI Chatbots, they may not always provide accurate or reliable information. Also, because ChatGPT relies on the world wide web, there is always the possibility that inappropriate content filters through. As in all our kids' internet participation, parents need to monitor their children's internet usage and establish godly boundaries. Parents are called to "train up the child in the way they should go" (Proverbs 22:6).

Students are called by God to live lives of integrity and truth. Unfortunately, probably the most practical application of ChatGPT by students is plagiarism and cheating. Though some schools are utilizing ChatGPT detectors, there yet remains the temptation for kids to let AI do the work for them. As God says in Leviticus 19:11, His people are not to steal, deal falsely or lie. Parents need to remind their children that it is more important to live lives of integrity before God than to maintain high grades by cheating (Ephesians 4:22).

Students are called by God to do all things for His glory. An unhealthy reliance on artificial intelligence will inhibit one's learning, rob students of motivation to do their work, and will take away needed critical thinking skills, creativity, and social interaction. Whatever we do, we are to do it all for the glory of Him who is our ultimate Teacher and Lord (1 Corinthians 10:31).

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Conversation Starters and Questions:

As technology advances in our world faster than we can keep up with it, our temptation as parents is to bury our heads in the sand and hope these new fads simply go away. That may be true for some things, but ChatGPT is not one of them.

- Before addressing the issue of ChatGPT, take a careful look at current safeguards in place to protect your teens from unhealthy internet usage. Do they have internet access in their bedrooms at night, for example? Are there filters in place to block dangerous websites?
- Ask your child if they are aware of ChatGPT and if so, if they are using it at home or for school. Find out if they know of friends that are using it and in what capacity. Have a conversation about cheating and the importance of doing things God's ways as opposed to the easy or more popular way.
- Use a discussion about ChatGPT as an opportunity to remind your child about the dangers of sharing personal information, conversations, or images online. Inform them that some AI models often involve the sharing of things that could be stored or used by the application that could prove harmful later. Nothing they tell ChatGPT is private.
- Have a discussion about your child's future and their need to be challenged academically that can be hindered by an undue reliance on ChatGPT. Instead of depending on an AI tool, students need to learn how to think, how to work through difficult concepts and problems, how to write, and to grow and mature as a person whom God is calling to use their gifts in this world.

For further reflection:

If you have gotten this far, just to demonstrate how powerful artificial intelligence really is . . . this entire parent prompt was created completely by ChatGPT!

Actually, it wasn't.

But it could've been...and that's kind of the point!

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

(Romans 12:2)



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