The Breath and the Machine

Disciple Handout · a Culture class

Name _____ Date _____

The article: A scientist, Jeff Stibel, argues that being clever is not the same as being a self, and that AI has no "stake" in anything because people supply all its needs. What does Scripture say about where the human self comes from?

1. Given: where the self comes from

> **Genesis 2:7** — then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (ESV)

Genesis 2:7 has two steps: first the body is _____ from dust, then God gives _____.

> **Job 32:8** — But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand. (ESV)
>
> **Genesis 2:18** — Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." (ESV)

Adam had every need met in the garden, yet the first lack he felt was being _____.

2. Broken: where the inner war came from

> **Genesis 3:10** — And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." (ESV)
>
> **Romans 7:24–25** — Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)

After the fall, the first thing Adam felt was _____, and the first thing he did was _____.

3. "Can this teach?"

> **Psalm 115:4–5** — Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. (ESV)
>
> **Psalm 115:8** — Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them. (ESV)
>
> **Habakkuk 2:18–19** — "What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it. (ESV)

The made thing has gold and silver, but there is no _____ at all in it. The danger is the maker who _____ in his own creation.

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4. Healed: the One who did not grasp

> **Mark 8:35** — For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. (ESV)
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> **Philippians 2:5–7** — Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (ESV)
>
> **1 Corinthians 6:19–20** — Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (ESV)

Adam grasped at being like God. Christ, in the form of God, did not _____.

This week

- Do not be afraid (2 Timothy 1:7).
- Use tools as tools.
- Do not hand your soul to a breathless thing (1 John 5:21).
- Watch what you are becoming.

For discussion

1. What difference does it make that your inner life is a gift and not an achievement?

2. What made things do you trust that you should not?

3. Where is Jesus asking you this week to stop protecting yourself?

The full article online

This class is the fifteen-minute version of a longer Culture article, with the Greek of the Septuagint and New Testament beside the ESV and notes where the ancient texts differ:

ps-church.com/discipleship/culture/the-breath-and-the-machine

All Culture articles: **ps-church.com/discipleship/culture**

Closing prayer

Lord God, You formed us from the dust and breathed into us the breath of life. We thank You that we are not machines and not accidents, but people You made and You know. Forgive us for grasping at our own way, and for trusting the works of our own hands. Deliver us from the war inside us. Keep us from fear of what people build, and keep us from idols. Teach us to lose our lives for Your sake, so that we may find them, as Your Son did not grasp but gave Himself for us. In the name of Jesus, Amen.