

AI Is Giving Humanity a Chance to Make an Impact

Much of the conversation surrounding artificial intelligence has focused on what AI will do to us. We debate how it will transform industries, automate work, and reshape our economy. Yet two stories this week reminded us that we may be asking the wrong question.



On CNBC, Rev. Walter Kim spoke about the need for moral guardrails and independent accountability as AI becomes more deeply woven into society. His message was clear: if AI is going to influence people's lives, it must never lose sight of the human values it is meant to serve.

Almost simultaneously, Reuters shared how its journalists are using AI in a very different way. Rather than replacing reporters, they described using AI to process tens of thousands of pages of historical documents, identify relationships across enormous collections of information, and uncover evidence that would have been nearly impossible for any team of people to analyze within a practical timeframe. Throughout the process, Reuters emphasized that human journalists remained responsible for verifying the facts, interpreting the findings, and deciding what should ultimately be reported.

Although these stories came from very different perspectives, together they point to something much bigger.

For thousands of years, humanity has been writing its own story. Every generation has added to an ever-expanding collection of books, court records, scientific research, government archives, newspapers, personal letters, speeches, photographs, videos, and now billions of digital conversations. This vast record contains our greatest achievements, our failures, our discoveries, and the countless decisions that have shaped civilization.

For the first time in history, we have tools capable of helping us examine human information at a scale that was previously unimaginable. AI can identify relationships across millions of documents, detect patterns spanning decades or even centuries, and surface insights that would otherwise remain hidden beneath an overwhelming volume of information. Used responsibly, it has the potential to help us better understand not only our history but also our values, our institutions, and ourselves.

That possibility represents one of the most exciting opportunities of the AI era. Rather than diminishing human intelligence, AI can expand our ability to learn from humanity's accumulated

experience. It can help researchers discover medical breakthroughs more quickly, historians uncover overlooked connections, journalists expose hidden truths, and organizations make more informed decisions based on evidence rather than assumption.

Yet this extraordinary capability also introduces an equally profound responsibility.

If AI increasingly influences how we interpret history, understand society, and make decisions, then we must be confident that the systems guiding those conclusions are worthy of our trust. The more AI shapes our understanding of humanity, the more important it becomes that these technologies are transparent, accountable, and grounded in human values.

That is why Rev. Kim's comments resonated so deeply. Independent accountability is not simply about reducing risk. The more we rely on AI to help us understand humanity, the more important it is that the systems guiding those insights are transparent, trustworthy, and grounded in human values. Without trust AI will struggle to fulfill its potential and make a positive impact on humanity.

Perhaps history will remember this moment not because artificial intelligence became capable of thinking more like humans, but because it gave humanity the ability to understand itself more clearly than ever before.

If we build these systems wisely, AI's greatest contribution may not be creating a more intelligent world.

It may be helping us become more thoughtful, more informed, and ultimately more human.