

**Faith & Reason Group Discussion Prompts – November 14, 2025**  
HOW TO RESIST THE MACHINE  
*Environment, Capitalism, and Human Flourishing*

**Discussion prompt #1**, key themes:

- “The Machine” (a la Thomas, Lawrence, Orwell, Shelley) not just technology yet **a way of seeing the world** as rational, reductive, mechanistic with humans on top
- Industrial, political, religious (Reformation, Enlightenment), scientific, and now digital revolutions more a change in thinking: first amongst elites, then into culture
- Divorces us from “four Ps” that make us human: **People, Place, Prayer, Past**
- Utopian, religious nature to communism, capitalism, AI, futurism, transhumanism
- McGilchrist: left vs. right brain, link between technology and loss of “right side”
- Lewis: the last part of nature to fall [to technology, reason] will be human nature
- People not sleepwalking, rather being pushed into tech, assuming it is progress
- Kingsnorth’s worldview: something wrong with things, yet **it comes from inside us** – control over nature, profit and wealth, cutting the past, building a new world
- Seven deadly sins are now monetized: pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, sloth
- Why do tech moguls send their kids to Steiner schools and prohibit smartphones?
- Ultimately spiritual: our relationship to God, others, nature, ourselves (and our tools)

**What do you think of PK’s view of “The Machine”?** What resonates and what doesn’t?

\*\*\*\*\*

**Discussion prompt #2**, key themes:

- The Enlightenment not all bad (liberalism), yet unintended consequence: instead of science and reason being tools, parts serving the whole, **anything not measurable became unreal** ... cities stripped us from nature ... “revolution by stealth”
- Cultural war predicated on not having a culture (identity used to be instinctual)
- Religion as tool to save culture is dangerous, doesn’t work (still spiritual yearning)
- Machine myth: there is no meaning; create it in career, growth, progress, tech
- Below economics, politics, culture are the big questions The Machine cannot answer
- Can’t “revive Christianity to revive Christian culture”; it emerges from belief
- Starting point [to belief] is not a fully formed creed, yet honest seeking questions
- “The West” = Christendom (Latin) and its values (not atheist, pagan, Eastern)
- We confuse this cultural identity with our now mechanistic one; it’s no longer Christianity or even liberal enlightenment ... rather technological progress to solve everything (cultural crisis, environmental crisis, to live forever), hyper-left-brain
- Not death, rather a moment of opportunity: what should I protect, rebuild ground-up?
- Practical path toward meaning, human personhood: 1) question the story you are living in, its values, if you have a better one; 2) reclaim “four Ps” (People, Place, Prayer, Past); 3) draw lines with digital tech; 4) form communities (“jellyfish tribes”)

**What practical paths do you (or will you) pursue to resist “The Machine”?** See above, especially top bullet, for summary of what PK means by it. For followers of Jesus, how does the gospel relate to The Machine? Does The Machine have any redeeming qualities toward God’s kingdom? If so, what? If not, how will you fight, hide, or flee from it?