Fear. Joy. Anger. Remorse. Pity. What do these have in common? They are emotions, human emotions that influence and sometimes interfere with how people make decisions. So, what would life be like without those emotions? Everyday life would probably be very dull, as people went about their daily routine without stopping to smile at a baby in a carrier or marvel at the beautiful sunset. Of course, it would eliminate road rage on the morning commute, jealous girls spreading rumors at school and angry teachers annoyed by students who have failed to turn in an assignment.

Eliminating all human emotion is impossible, but what if it could be eliminated in certain circumstances? Would life be better? What if the teacher couldn’t get angry? Would children learn more? What if the accident resulting from that traffic jam caused by road rage brought not a police officer, but a police **robot** to the scene? How would the outcomes of daily life be different? Is human emotion always a good thing?

Many problems could be solved by replacing some humans with robots. Police officers are a perfect example. Imagine a world where the bad guys could be recognized in an instant, as a computer scanned through millions of records in the time it took for a human officer to say “Good Morning.” How do you lie to a machine who can read minute facial tics and slight raises in perspiration, voice octaves or heart rates? What a perfect a police officer the machine would be, with none of the weaknesses of a person. No more officers dead in the line of duty, no more families torn apart.

Perhaps as importantly, in light of incidents like Baltimore and Ferguson, is the total impartiality of robots. Racial profiling? Not part of the programing. Mistaking the plastic spoon being waved by a homeless person for a dangerous weapon? Not possible. Without the need to fear for its life, and without the ability to know a person ”should” be guilty because of the color of his skin, robot offices possesses the ability to dispense justice with absolute fairness. Assess the threat, not the person, and respond accordingly.

But are emotions essential for police officers? Do they need to be able to “relate” to the humans they are regulating? No. With robots on duty to do law enforcement, the role of human police officers could be redefined. They could be available to help people and build communities. They could focus on preventing crime with positive encounters while their robot counterparts do the “dirty work.”

Emotions are not relevant to the enforcement of law. Emotions are essential for building relationships, developing as human beings, and creating a better world. They are not essential for protecting that world.