

How to Live a Life That Honors God

July 12, 2026

Main Passage: Proverbs 11:11-7

Theological Theme

Beware of the allure of wealth, it can't save us. Only Jesus can.

Introduction

- ❓ How would you define a person of good character?
- ❓ How do you think our world defines good character? Is there a difference?

1. His Delight (Proverbs 11:1)

This verse tells us that “dishonest scales are detestable” to God. Detestable. In the ancient Near East, sellers would sometimes keep two different sets of stones for weighing goods (one for when they were buying, and a different one for when they were selling, both designed to, literally, tip the scales in their favor).

- ❓ What do we learn from these verses about what God values in a person's character?
- ❓ What type of character trait does the person with dishonest scales display?
- ❓ What frees believers to be honest with others, even when it is not personally beneficial?

2. The Integrity of the Upright (Proverbs 11:2-3)

We have all encountered the pitfalls of arrogance (either in ourselves or in others). Nothing good comes of arrogance, but verse two specifically calls out disgrace as a side effect. The dishonest scales from verse one are used by an arrogant heart. Conversely, the humble heart (which has given up the temptation of arrogance) is wise. Humility is a simple thing, but that doesn't make it easy. Humility is always worth pursuing because it is vital for a flourishing, godly character!

- ❓ What do we learn from these verses about what God values in a person's character?

- ❓ What do these verses warn against?
- ❓ How does personal arrogance show a lack of trust in God and dependence on Him?

3. Righteousness Rescues (Proverbs 11:4-7)

The “wealth” in view in verse four should be understood as wealth obtained by dishonest and wicked means (like the wealth obtained by the “dishonest scales” in verse one). As we’ve studied earlier in this series, money in and of itself is morally neutral. When we manage our wealth in partnership with the Lord, He can do great things with it!

- ❓ What do we learn from these verses about what God values in a person’s character?
- ❓ What point did the writer make about wealth?
- ❓ What are some ways you have seen that the wicked fall beneath a load of sin?

Conclusion

- ❓ What might be the modern-day equivalent of using “honest scales?”
- ❓ How can we encourage one another on toward strong, Christlike character?
- ❓ How does living honestly give us opportunity to share our hope with others?