

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#33) The Proverbs of Solomon 11:1- Cheaters, Beware!

Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34 are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom ([1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10](#)), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 11:1:

Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is His delight.

Whatever is "an abomination to the LORD" is as despicable as anything can be, for that places it along with: dabblers in the supernatural, [Deuteronomy 18:9-12](#); prostitution, [Deuteronomy 23:18](#); perverse heart, [Proverbs 11:20](#); lying lips, [Proverbs 12:22](#); everyone proud in heart, [Proverbs 16:5](#). "Dishonest scales" certainly fit in that list. God's Law through Moses was very explicit about this matter:

You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a heavy and a light. You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small. You shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure, that your days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. For all who do such things, all who behave unrighteously, are an abomination to the LORD your God. ([Deuteronomy 25:13-16](#))

Anyone who carries "differing measures," or different weights, is planning to deal unfairly with someone, somewhere, sometime. The "all who do such things" means the practice is wrong, no matter if someone is poor, disadvantaged, under a "glass ceiling," prosperous, an official of a government, tax assessor, tax collector, manufacturer, or all such "excuses."

When people plan to "buy and sell and make a profit" ([James 4:13](#)), it should never be as God condemned in [Amos 8:5](#): "Making the ephah small and the shekel large, falsifying the scales by deceit." The "ephah" would have measured the produce and the "shekel" the money to purchase it. Shortening the measurement and acting as if the money amount was larger within a transaction is abominable to God!



Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

That describes today's practices of:

- Making the container look the same size but putting less inside;
- Artificially inflating costs by printing more money without value;
- Raising "minimum wage" for the same or less work;
- Shortchanging customers;
- Raising prices while lowering benefits in contracts; or
- Any of the myriad of ways the wicked will invent to "profit."

God's "fair labor law" was that the "poor and needy" laborer should be paid when the work was done ([Deuteronomy 24:14-15](#)), not at the convenience of the employer, regardless of ethnicity! Other proverbs uphold this:

- **Proverbs 20:10:** "Diverse weights and diverse measures, They are both alike, an abomination to the LORD;"
- **Proverbs 20:23:** "Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD, And dishonest scales are not good;"
- Probably best summarized in **Proverbs 20:14:** "'It is good for nothing,' cries the buyer; But when he has gone his way, then he boasts."

Minimizing the product's worth to get a good buy shows intent to deceive. Honest discounts, coupons, merchant sales, or actually factory defective products offered at low prices are not included in this proverb, however. Honest truly applies to economics as well as to words, deeds, and relationships!

~~~~~