



Proverbs
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Calvary Church

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Business Ethics
Proverbs

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Business Ethics

PROVERBS

The Book of Proverbs has plenty to say about business ethics. Since we only have time to partially cover three areas, please read through these verses to gain a fuller picture of what Proverbs has to say about ethics in business.

- I. Honesty by the seller (11:1, 16:11, 20:10, 20:23) and honesty by the buyer (20:14).
 - 11:1 The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.
 - 16:11 Honest scales and balances are from the LORD; all the weights in the bag are of his making.
 - 20:10 Differing weights and differing measures, the LORD detests them both.
 - 20:23 The LORD detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please him.
 - 20:14 “It’s no good, it’s no good!” says the buyer; then off he goes and boasts about his purchase.
- II. Avoid ill-gotten profits (10:2, 11:18, 28:8, 28:16)
 - 10:2 Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death.
 - 11:18 The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.
 - 28:8 He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor.
 - 28:16 A tyrannical ruler lacks judgment, but he who hates ill-gotten gain will enjoy a long life.
- III. Generosity is a good policy, even in business (11:24-26, 28:8)
 - 11:24 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. ²⁵A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. ²⁶People curse the man who hoards grain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell.
 - 28:8 He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor.
- IV. Slow growth and planning is better than explosive growth (13:11, 21:5)
 - 13:11 Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.
 - 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.
- V. Securing loans for people is a bad idea (17:18, 20:16, 22:26-27, 27:13, 28:8) this is not prohibited in Scripture, but it is unwise.
 - 17:18 A man lacking in judgment strikes hands in pledge and puts up security for his neighbor.
 - 20:16 Take the garment of one who puts up security for a stranger; hold it in pledge if he does it for a wayward woman.
 - 22:26 Do not be a man who strikes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; ²⁷if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you.
 - 27:13 Take the garment of one who puts up security for a stranger; hold it in pledge if he does it for a wayward woman.
 - 28:8 He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor.
- VI. Hard work (14:23, 16:26, 27:18)
 - 14:23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.
 - 16:26 The laborer’s appetite works for him; his hunger drives him on.
 - 27:18 He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who looks after his master will be honored.
- VII. Hire carefully (26:10)
 - 26:10 Like an archer who wounds at random is he who hires a fool or any passer-by.