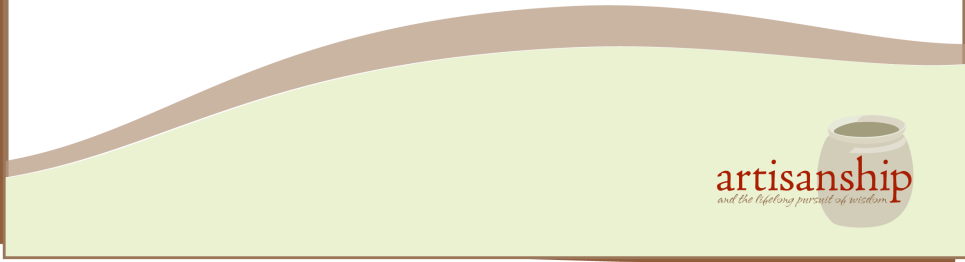




# *The Skillful Life*

*65 Categories in Proverbs*



artisansh*ip*  
*and the lifelong pursuit of wisdom*

## Fair

Defined: Marked by impartiality and honesty; free from self-interest, prejudice, or favoritism

Integrity in business and relationships – 11:1

Applying justice properly – 17:15; 24:23-24

No partiality – 28:21

Result – Respect of others (29:13-14)



## Merciful

Defined: Extending undeserved compassion

Forgiving sin – 17:9; 28:13

Helping the poor – 14:31

General compassion (favor) toward people – 21:10

Result – Good to the soul / self (11:17; Micah 7:18;  
Luke 6:27-36)



## Merciful

The merciful man does good for his own soul,  
But he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.

Proverbs 11:17

He does not retain His anger forever,  
Because He delights in mercy.

Micah 7:18

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Luke 6:35-36



## Generous

Defined: Going beyond “good enough” for the sake of blessing others

Generosity in meeting basic needs – 22:9

Generosity in sharing possessions – 21:25-26

Generosity in our works in the community – 11:11

Result – Voice with people (19:6); prosperity (11:24-25; 19:17)



## Diligence

Defined: Pressing on and never giving up no matter what comes your way (specifically in pursuing godly character)

Precious possession – 12:27

Success in abundance – 21:5

Diligence applied to the other character traits

Result – Godly character (cf. 2 Peter 1:2-11; Proverbs 11:23; 11:27; 12:2 – desire, diligence, bestowal)



## Diligence

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



## Diligence

For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The desire of the righteous is only good (11:23)

He who diligently seeks good seeks favor (11:27)

A good man will obtain favor from the LORD (12:2)



## Character Traits - Conclusion

The pursuit of wisdom, godly character, and favor is the pursuit of Christ-likeness

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

Luke 2:52

