



# CROSSROADS COUNSELING

*emphasizing biblical hope & restoration*

www.crossroadsaugusta.org ♦ 706.364.1270

## Lavished... In Wisdom

We can rest in the fact that neither the Bible nor God's character contain contradictions, but they both contain some strong tensions. Consider the consecutive phrases in Ephesians 1:8 that God lavishes grace upon us but does so in all wisdom. We would find it quite hard to "lavishly love" and yet do so "with all wisdom." Yet balance and harmony between virtues is the essence of holiness. The most amazing thing about God is not that he is great in every aspect, but that there is no friction between the aspects of His greatness.

Look at the following list of virtues. Circle the ones you consider personal strengths. Underline the ones you consider personal weaknesses. Try to identify where your weaknesses are exaggerations of or results from your strengths.

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| Love       | Honest        |
| Personal   | Just          |
| Grace      | Power         |
| Good       | Influence     |
| Patient    | Control       |
| Attentive  | Hope          |
| Free       | Efficient     |
| Productive | Respect       |
| Beauty     | Understanding |
| Joy        | Unity         |
| Wise       | Rest          |
| Order      | Fun           |
| Peace      | Affirming     |

From this examination, I would encourage two things. First, let it cause you to marvel afresh at the balanced holiness of God's character. Second, let it give you a new way of thinking about pursuing holiness and how holiness can be expressed.

*written by:*

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