



Prayer Resources

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A Tale Of Two Lifestyles

If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live?
Ezekiel 33:10

When Ezekiel raised this question, he lived in the midst of a culture that was bent on transgressing God's immutable laws. God's people were beguiled into sinning without any thought of consequences. They brooded away under God's withdrawal of His presence and blessings. Today God's people are living in the midst of a similar culture that beguiles us into sin without our recognition of its reality – leaving us perplexed as to why God withholds His presence and spiritual blessings. Unlike Ezekiel, we have the benefit of the very clearly stated New Testament descriptions of two contrasting lifestyles. The lifestyle of Jesus described in Philippians 2 tells us how we should live and the lifestyle of the reprobate described in Romans 1 tells us how we should not live.

Jesus, Who being in the form of God and thought it not robbery to be equal with God, emptied Himself and refused to be driven by the spirit of competition (Phil. 2:6; John 13:16). He refused to be crowned as king by man while on earth. He taught that His followers should *not lord over others* (Mark 10:42-43). Jesus' lifestyle did not have a spirit of control by demanding rights and dominating over the rights of others. In contrast, the reprobate is ungrateful for his blessings from God and goes about demanding rights and privileges from his fellow man. His lifestyle is centered around himself (Rom. 1:18-21).

Jesus, Who made Himself of no reputation, consciously did not seek to build His own reputation (Phil. 2:7; Matt. 27:11). He taught that His followers should *become slaves* of all others (Mark 10:43-44). Jesus' lifestyle was not driven by pride and prestige to become somebody, especially at the expense of someone else. In contrast, the reprobate is tenaciously driven to obtain a reputation and a legacy for himself. His lifestyle is centered around his accomplishments (Rom. 1:22).

Jesus, Who took upon Him the form of a servant, became a menial slave in ministering to the needs of others (Phil. 2:7; John 13:4-5). He taught that His followers should *become servants* to meet the needs of others (John 13:14-17). Jesus' lifestyle focused on the needs of others. In contrast, the reprobate is focused on his own needs. His lifestyle is centered around self-gratification (Rom. 1:23-24).

Jesus, Who was made in the likeness of men, became fully man with all his struggles and temptations (Phil. 2:7; 1 John 1:1-3; Heb. 2:14-18). He taught the downwardly mobile attitude of His followers becoming *little children* in order to be a part of His Kingdom (Matt. 18:3-4). Jesus' lifestyle reflected His condescension of Himself in order to value others. In contrast, the reprobate glorifies himself. His lifestyle is centered around manipulating others to be downwardly mobile by partaking of his sin (Rom. 1:25-27).