PUTTING ON CHRIST
Galatians 5:16 and Romans 13:14

Introduction: 1) Notice the similarity in these passages 2) Walking by the Spirit means to put on Christ 3) Many Christians think Walking by the Spirit is a passive exercise, we just wait on the Spirit to do something in us 4) These passages are imperatives, commands for you to do something. It is when you do what it commands the Spirit begins to guide and empower us and we begin to experience the opposite of what Paul experienced in Romans 7 when he discovered without the help of the Holy Spirit we have no chance against the flesh with our own will power. 5) So, the question then is what does Putting on Christ mean and how can we do it?

I. The foundation of Putting on Christ is knowing that you have already put on Christ (Scripture uses clothing analogy a lot, people often think a lot about you from what you wear)
   A. Key Scripture: Galatians 3:27
   B. This means two key things happened when you put on Christ
      1. You were justified by faith - Romans 3:21-25; 5:8-10,18,19; Philippians 3:9 (Christ dies for your sins and you are clothed with the righteousness of Christ)
      2. You now have a new master or Lord - Romans 6:6,11,12; Colossians 3:9,10; Galatians 5:24
   C. The failure of many Christians is because they are trying to become something they already are (illustration: How many of you would say you are sinners and how many of you would say you are holy?)
   D. The key to Christian living is simply living out the person God has made you to be - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (Did Jesus death accomplish this or not?)

II. Since you have put on Christ now put on Christ
   A. The Scripture urges you to now put into practice what Christ has already accomplished on the cross - Ephesians 4:21-24; Colossians 3:1-5,12,13
B. Putting on Christ simply means to do what Jesus would do in every circumstance of life (immature Christians rarely think like this, it is obvious that if you did this you would not fulfill the desires of the flesh)

III. How can we put on Christ
   A. We have to be sure Christ is our Lord not just our Savior - Romans 6:11,12
   B. We must have our minds transformed - Romans 12:1,2; Ephesians 4:21-24; 1 Corinthians 2:16 (We are new creations in God but God has not erased the sinful thoughts still imbedded in our brains, he has changed our desires in our hearts, we must replace these sinful thoughts with thoughts Jesus would think so that we think like him)
   C. This is accomplished as we fellowship with Christ through spiritual thoughts, prayer, and songs - 2 Peter 1:3,4; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 5:18-19
      1. The Holy Spirit speaks to us about the love and glories of Christ through these means and:
      2. In this way he produces a response from us and it is through our responses he begins to change us little by little into the image of Christ and thus we are putting on Christ. This is how we are strengthened by the Spirit so that our desires are greater than the flesh’s desires - John 16:14,15; 2 Corinthians 13:14
   D. Putting on Christ and Walking by the Spirit is not an event, it is a lifestyle God wishes us to engage (keep on walking continuous by the Spirit, this is not just a power burst for certain habits or occasions)
   E. Finally, this is the reason God saved you, to conform you into the likeness of Christ (in this way the Father intends to glorify His Son Jesus and this is the primary work of the Spirit in us, to glory Christ by changing us little by little into the likeness of Jesus)

Conclusion: If we are new creations in Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 declares to us that the evidence of that is that we will no longer live for ourselves but live for Christ, this means the new creation Christ has made us through his work on the cross will be lived out in us, putting
on Christ, becoming more and more like Jesus, this is the passion of the new creation in Christ and if this is not your passion, then it is likely you are not a new creation in Christ. Christ didn’t die on the cross so you could check the box about making a decision for Jesus and then just become somewhat religious without any real change. He means for us to change, change into his likeness and that is what he died for because the Father predestined us for this outcome. This is what motivates a person to engage in spiritual disciplines because we know it is a joy to know Christ better and the Spirit will change us into the likeness of Jesus as we know Jesus better thus bringing Christ glory and doesn’t he deserve glory for what he has done for us on the cross. Finally, if you have no placed your faith in Jesus blood to atone for your sins, does the cross mean anything to you today, does the love of Christ mean nothing to you? Would you surrender to his love and sacrifice for you. You symbolize your faith in Christ through baptism, symbolizing your death and new life in Christ. Part of God’s plan in changing people into the likeness of Jesus is the Church. Is this the Church you believe that can help you become more like Christ, if so, you should make a commitment and become a member of it today because God has destined our growth not just be individual but as a group. Let us stand and sing as you ponder what God is saying to you today.