

Romans 13:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Analysis

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ—Alla endysasthe ton kyrion Iēsoun Christon (ἀλλὰ ἐνδύσασθε τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν). The aorist imperative endysasthe (put on) calls for decisive action—clothe yourself with Christ. This echoes Galatians 3:27: 'as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.' To 'put on Christ' is to assume His character, embody His virtues, live in union with Him (Colossians 3:10-14). The full title—kyrion Iēsoun Christon (Lord Jesus Christ)—emphasizes His authority (Lord), humanity (Jesus), and messianic office (Christ).

And make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof—Kai tēs sarkos pronoian mē poieisthe eis epithymias (καὶ τῆς σαρκὸς πρόνοιαν μὴ ποιεῖσθε εἰς ἐπιθυμίας). Pronoian (πρόνοια, provision/forethought) means planning ahead. The prohibition: don't make advance arrangements to indulge epithymias (lusts/desires) of sarx (flesh—sinful nature). Don't position yourself for temptation, don't create opportunities for sin. This is practical wisdom—avoid situations, relationships, media, environments that fuel fleshly desires.

Historical Context

This verse converted Augustine. Tormented by sexual sin and philosophical confusion, he heard a child's voice: 'Tolle lege' (take up and read). Opening Scripture, he read Romans 13:13-14. Immediately convicted, he renounced his lifestyle, embraced chastity, and pursued Christ—becoming the greatest theologian

since Paul. This text demonstrates Scripture's transformative power when applied by the Spirit. 'Put on Christ' became a baptismal formula in the early church, symbolizing believers' new identity. Putting off the old self (Ephesians 4:22) and putting on Christ is the essence of conversion and sanctification.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to 'put on the Lord Jesus Christ' (endysasthe ton kyrion Iēsoun)—how do you clothe yourself with Him daily?
2. In what areas are you 'making provision for the flesh' (tēs sarkos pronoian)—planning ahead for sin, creating opportunities for temptation?
3. How does avoiding provision for the flesh differ from legalistic rule-keeping—what's the heart difference between fear-based avoidance and love-motivated pursuit of holiness?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλ' ἐνδύσασθε τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν καὶ τῆς

But **put ye on** G3588 **the Lord** G2962 **Jesus** G2424 **Christ** G5547 **and** G2532 G3588

σαρκὸς πρόνοιαν μὴ ποιεῖσθε εἰς ἐπιθυμίας

the flesh **provision** G4307 **not** G3361 **make** G4160 **for** G1519 **to fulfil the lusts** G1939

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 4:24 (Parallel theme): And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Galatians 3:27 (References Christ): For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

1 Peter 2:11 (Parallel theme): Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Galatians 5:24 (References Christ): And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Job 29:14 (Parallel theme): I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem.