

**Sermon:** *You Decorated My Life*  
**Text:** *Galatians 5:22 – 23*  
**Date:** *November 27, 2011 PM*  
**Place:** *Jesup First UMC*

I've always had a problem with my birthday. Can you imagine growing up with a birth date like July 4<sup>th</sup>? Everybody celebrates on July 4<sup>th</sup>. There are parties and picnics and backyard barbeques. And I'm told that when I was a boy, I thought they were all for me. Can you imagine going somewhere and seeing all the decorations and then, finding out you're not invited?

So, we've decorated our Sunday School classes. The sanctuary is decorated beautifully. Everything about the décor of our church says, "There's gonna be a party." And in the next few days, if you haven't already, you're gonna decorate your house. Americans spent over \$18 Billion on Christmas decorations last year. Most of us will put up a tree with ribbons and garlands and bows. Some will even put lights and figurines outside. And we go through a lot of trouble to celebrate Christmas, the birth of the King of kings and Lord of lords, but ... I wonder ... after we've done all the decorating, after the lights are hung and the bows are tied, is He invited to the party? Do our Christmas celebrations center around the One that Christmas is all about? And ... after we've spent so much time decorating our church and decorating our homes, how are our lives decorated?

Back when I was in high school, Kenny Rogers had a hit song called, "You Decorated My Life." Do you remember that song? It said: "All my life was a paper, once plain pure and white, till you moved with your pen, changing moods now and then till the

balance was right. Then, you added some music, every note was in place and anybody could see all the changes in me by the look on my face. And you decorated me life, created a world where dreams are a part. And you decorated me life by painting your love all over my heart. You decorated me life.”

Believe it or not, the Bible talks about decorating your life ... well, kinda. You see, the Bible makes it clear that when Jesus Christ is the Lord of your life, when the Holy Spirit dwells within you, then your life will be adorned with certain godly attributes. Paul lists some of them in Galatians 5. He said: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” These are the bulbs that hang on the Christian Tree. And Paul told the church at Thessalonica to decorate their lives with Faith, Hope, and love; he wrote: “Put on faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet.”

Now, sometimes – because we’re imperfect human beings – we place the emphasis in the wrong place. We worry about how things look. Does my house look pretty? Do my clothes look good? Is the sanctuary decorated beautifully? And we forget that God not only looks upon outwards appearances but on the inward reality. And as He comes to us this Advent Season, God is just as concerned with how our lives are decorated as He is with how our church and our homes are decorated.

So, let me ask you something: Do you see the Fruit of the Spirit adorning your life? Have you put on

Faith, Hope and Love? My friends, Jesus wants to decorate our lives, will we let Him?

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!