



### *Renovation, Jesus-Style*

“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” Romans 8:9 (NKJV)

Anyone who has ever watched a home improvement reality show, or had a renovation project completed in their own home, knows that the best part of the whole process is the “reveal” at the end of the project. The most important thing to recognize in any renovation is that there is a process that includes an enormous amount of work. This must take place before the homeowner can benefit from the final results. It all begins with the determination of the scope of the project; from there, every detail is hopefully accounted for and addressed before demolition ever begins.

Reconstruction of a heart can be compared to a home renovation. However, one major difference is that the one, whose heart is under construction, usually does not plan in advance for such a remodel. When the Lord takes residence in ones’ heart, He is not interested in just redecorating. Unbeknownst to the “heart owner,” a predetermined scope of the project has been devised, well before the full demolition and reconstruction process was ever commissioned. For many of us, this process can be a bit painful and seem like a lot of work. However, God has a master plan and He sent the Master Carpenter to carry it through. Titus 3:4-7 sums up the whole process in a nutshell: “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (NKJV)

The best part will, of course, be our final “reveal” when we see the Master Carpenter face-to-face!

“...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ...” Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

*Wendi Fraley*