

7 UPS Cross “I AM”

Two 7 Uppers sitting at a table sharing the Word of God along with various interest. One a great woodworker, the other being a deep thinker. One day the deep thinker gave a gift of walnut wood to his friend the woodworker. For several months after the passing of the deep thinker the wood sat perched atop a cabinet. Then as the woodworker was preparing to move to another location for retirement, the conversations of the past, the walnut wood on the cabinet spoke to the woodworker's heart. From there the woodworker began a task of love to leave behind for fellow 7 Uppers some thoughts related to Jesus the Christ.



From the walnut, a base was formed to hold a cross. The base is triangular geometrically; an equilateral triangle, reminding us of the Trinity. The dome of the base reminds us that Jesus was suspended from the cross on a hill. The cross is based in the geometric center of the base. Just as HE is in the Trinity, He should be in the center of our lives.

As the woodworker thought more and more of his friend the deep thinker. The woodworker remembered that the cross came historically from man. In the days of crucifixions, the Romans did not waste their best wood or woodworking talent on making crosses. The woodworker thought it would be easy to leave the cross plain and smooth as it had been originally carved. But the texture the woodworker provided for the final cross became a reminder to us that in the real world which Jesus was caused to suffer for us, and thus the texture became rough and imperfect reminding us that it was made and used by humans. A step deeper in the woodworkers thought was that as humans we often fail to glorify God and take the easier course to accomplish the task at hand.

As the wood carved into the smooth plain cross, his thought wandered to milieu of the persons who cut the cross on which Jesus hung. Perhaps a prisoner or a slave, doing his job, hewing and joining the two pieces, really did not know that this particular cross would change the world. He, or they, was probably indifferent to his labors, and just satisfying his masters, so to speak. However, the woodworker had the advantage in knowing the effects of what that 2000-year-old cross meant.

As that woodworker presented the finished product to the 7 UPs, he hoped we would share the Cross “I Am” story with others.

This 7 UPs Cross “I AM” is dedicated to the memory of the Deep Thinker - Rodney Grant Wells and to the Woodworker/7Ups Table Leader - Bruce Finley Stout.

**Crafted and Presented by Bruce Finley Stout
Dunwoody Men’s DCC 05/07/06**

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