

**“The Genius of Jesus”**  
**Easter, April 21, 2019**

Happy Easter & Many Blessings To You! I want you to know that I love you and I'm glad that you're here!

I was at a flea market and there was a silversmith that had tons of jewelry and a huge selection of crosses. There was a lady there looking them over next to me and chatting with the salesperson. She kept saying, “I'm not sure if I want one with Jesus on there or not...” *Some People Want Him Involved and Some People Don't.*

**The Cross For Many Is A Symbol of Death.** People wear Crosses around their necks to remember Jesus' Crucifixion.

**The Cross Was An Execution-Style Death.** They would nail people to large pieces of wood and stand them upright; hanging them from the nails. They would die from suffocation from the pooling of fluids and weight from their internals. They would place a platform at the base of their feet so they could stand so they could breathe. They would crucify people where all could see and the intent was not to just execute them but to humiliate them. They reconciled through humiliation.

**The Genius of Jesus Is That His Humiliation Paid For Our Reconciliation.** *The Cross Isn't A Symbol of Death, It's a Symbol of New Life. Isaiah 53:4-6 (NLT): “Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But*

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*he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own."*

**The Genius of Jesus is that He just didn't Appease God; He Created a Way for Us to Approach God. Hebrews 10:20-22 (NLT):** *"By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water."*

**The Genius of Jesus Is that The Power of His Resurrection Is The Resurrection of Our Power. Ephesians 1:19-20 (NLT):** *"I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms."*

**The Genius of Jesus Is that You Don't Have to "Lose in Life," It's So that You Can "Choose in Life." John 10:9-10 (NLT):** *"Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in*

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*through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.*

*The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” (John 10:9-10, NLT)*

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