

Jesus Meets Us in Our Delusion of Separation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCWTOKE54Oo>

Theologian C. Baxter Kruger explores the central theme of humanity's union with God, challenging the "delusion of separation" that often characterizes traditional religious systems.

Core Theological Concepts

- **The Assumption of Separation:** Kruger argues that the fundamental "great darkness" is the belief that humanity is separated from God. This assumption stems from the Garden of Eden (the "shining one's" suggestion of independence) and leads to a life of self-effort, where individuals attempt to "get back" to God through religious performance or intellectual correct theology (6:03 - 8:00).
- **The Gospel of Union:** Rather than creating a relationship with humanity, Jesus Christ came to *meet us in our delusion of separation*. Kruger posits that Jesus has united himself with all of humanity, and the Christian life is the discovery of his presence within us, rather than reaching for an absent deity (8:35 - 9:40).
- **The Cross as Divine Descent:** The cross is framed not as a mechanism to appease an angry God, but as God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) submitting to human betrayal and murder to enter into our delusion and re-route humanity back into the Father's love (8:43 - 9:00, 34:00 - 35:30).

Scripture and Key References

- **John 14:20:** "In that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you." This is described as the foundational reality of the Gospel (17:18 - 17:25, 22:40 - 23:03).
- **John 14:6:** Jesus as the "Way, the Truth, and the Life" is interpreted through the lens of John 14:20: Jesus is the Way (in the Father), the Truth (we are in him), and the Life (he is in us) (29:44 - 30:20).
- **John 5:19:** The Son doing only what he sees the Father doing serves as a model for the believer's life—existing in union and sharing in the Father's ongoing work (32:00 - 33:00).
- **The Apostle John/Patmos:** Kruger uses his fictional book, *Patmos*, to illustrate a theologian (*Aiden*) finding freedom from burnout by encountering the living Christ (4:15 - 5:45, 23:45 - 25:20).

Dealing with Persecution and Freedom

Kruger addresses the cost of following this perspective, noting that those who step out of traditional religious systems often face criticism or accusations of leaving the faith. He emphasizes:

- **Paresia (Unearthly Assurance):** The confidence found in having truly met the resurrected Jesus, which renders the intimidation of systems or "emperors" powerless (46:12 - 47:15).
 - **Living in Reality:** The "relief" of the Gospel cannot be hidden; it naturally draws others and exposes the emptiness of systems that do not offer the same presence of the Spirit (48:06 - 49:00).
 - **Community:** The importance of being surrounded by others who are walking the same path of freedom, as the Apostles did in the early church (39:30 - 40:30).
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Comparison: Separation vs. Union Model

Feature	Separation Model (Critiqued)	Union Model (Proposed)
Starting Point	We are separated; we must bridge the gap.	We are created in Christ; he meets us in our delusion.
Focus	Performance, self-effort, religious systems.	Discovery of the indwelling presence of the Trinity.
Jesus' Role	The one who made a way to leave behind.	The one who is present within us and around us.
Faith	A tool to earn or reach God.	A recognition/revelation of a reality already true.

About C. Baxter Kruger, Ph.D.: *C. Baxter Kruger* is a theologian, author, and teacher. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy from King's College, University of Aberdeen, Scotland. He is the director of Perichoresis, a ministry dedicated to sharing the "Grace Perspective" and the understanding of the Trinitarian nature of the Gospel. He is known for his work in highlighting the indwelling of the Triune God in all of humanity, often collaborating with authors like Wm. Paul Young.