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Romans 6:3-4

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. NRSV

Devotion

Romans 6 contains a lengthy discussion about baptism, dying to sin and raising to new life in Christ. It's good stuff. Paul is addressing particular issues in the church of Rome. However, these words ring true for all of us.

The recent social unrest over social injustice has been called a "turning point" by some in the media. We have already seen changes being made in the public and private sector.

Decades of civil rights action have brought progress, but recent events indicate we still have a long way to go. Perhaps, one of the issues is that we have repeatedly tried new versions of old solutions with spits and spurts of success. We have made progress in the past, but it has not brought full equity.

With Paul's words in the background, it is helpful to reimagine what the future might look like. Completely new solutions to society's inequities may be in order. It gets back to Paul's words about dying with Christ in Baptism. The old ways of doing things that did not work have to go. It is time for something new. Our baptismal life in Christ encourages us to bring new life, new solutions and new ways of engaging one another.

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Prayer

Yes, Jesus, I want to be on your right side or your left side, not for any selfish reason. I want to be on your right or your best side, not in terms of some political kingdom or ambition, but I just want to be there in love and in justice and in truth and in commitment to others, so we can make of the old world a new world. Amen.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

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