

SEMPER FI! SEMPER FI!

By Bert Devin

Semper fidelis, is a Latin phrase that means “*always faithful*” or “*always loyal*.” It is the motto of the United States Marine Corps, and is usually shortened to **semper fi**. Also, the Three Musketeers, the famous French swordsmen, not the candy bar, were renowned for their motto, “All for one! One for All!” The church of God seems to have a motto, of sorts, also, and that is: “It is Just You, and me, God.”

For fifty years, or more, church of God members, drove hours and hours, each way, just to participate in church services. Sometimes, in summer, they would picnic along the way. Milking the cows had to wait until midnight. In winter, they battled icy roads, each way, just to get to a service.

Today, many of our heads are grey or white, and some sleep, awaiting the Kingdom. Now. With the Kingdom nearer, many may have put to rest the motto of, “Semper fi.”

We continue to argue, split, and splinter, over the silliest “little” things. Few seem able to “agree to disagree” for the sake of unity, and oneness, even over “non-salvation issues”. Many of the church of God groups have forgotten the essence of the meaning of Peter’s dream: **God did not send His Son to die for just their special group**. See Acts, Chapters 10-11. God’s Son did not die for one nation, or church.

When we were first, children in the faith, those **that were** five years longer, in “The Truth” were considered old-timers, or elders. Now that we are no longer children, we **forget that** we were once wrong about a host of religious beliefs. **Now, many hearts of the people have grown hard as stone. These are the** very hearts God promised to replace, **if we would humble ourselves. Read Romans 14:10** “**But** why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at naught thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ.

Does **the way** a brother **chooses to** keep the Sabbath negate the Sabbath. **Does** the fact that the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath, **negate the Sabbath, if a person doesn’t keep it? Absolutely not!**

How does what he does, or not do, effect how I love **or worship** God, which is, “with all my heart, with all my soul and with all my mind,” which is what it says in, Matthew 22:37.

How I think **another person** should live **could, considerably,** affect how I keep the second great commandment, “**...to love thy neighbor as thy self.**” **Are our differences** really an issue to divide fellowship over? We all stand before the judgement seat, alone, before Christ. He died for my brothers, **and sisters,** also.

In conclusion, let us remember the words of Jude, recorded in Jude 1:3. “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it is needful of me to write unto

you, and exhort you that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

Perhaps, [if we would learn to agree to disagree on the non-salvation issues](#), then maybe we can again, picnic on the long road to church, or milk cows in the dark, or fight icy roads, at least in the obstacles of our minds, to fellowship with our brethren. And worship together before our God.

“For God so loved the world...”

[Semper fi.](#)