



## Daily Devotion



*"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." John 14:15*

A sign in a local gym reads: *Do more of what makes you happy.* Now I'm not trying to be nit-picky here (on second thought, maybe I am), but what if a gym member is happiest when he sits on the couch in front of the television eating ice cream? If everyone did what makes them happy, our society would be less productive, more lazy, and probably a whole lot more immoral.

Recalling an episode of the *Andy Griffith Show*, Andy and Barney detested Aunt Bee's pickles, but in trying not to hurt her feelings, they ended up with a whole lot of them to eat. Contemplating what to do, Andy grabbed one, took a bite, and told Barney, "Learn to love 'em."

This is how we can view living the Christian life. Striving to obey God in all things may not be what makes us happy. Our flesh may even detest it like Aunt Bee's pickles. But the more we hear the Gospel, that Jesus kept the Law perfectly for us, and that He died and rose again also for us and for our salvation, that makes the pickles taste a whole lot better. In fact, as Andy and Barney learned to love the pickles out of their love for Aunt Bee, our love for Jesus moves us to learn how to please Him, and this is what makes us happy as Christians.

*You loved me, Lord Jesus, with Your dying breath. Teach me to love You, and to love what You have commanded. Amen.*