

JANUARY  
23 & 24

# IOWA'S GOSPEL: I WANT TO BE HAPPY.

JOHN FULLER  
SENIOR PASTOR

## INTRODUCTION

Over the past couple weeks, we've discovered two lies that accompany Iowa's Gospel and the two truths which should replace them.

*Lie:* I'm a good Iowan; that makes me a Christian. | *Truth:* Jesus is a good Savior; that makes me a Christian.

*Lie:* I go to church, so I'm all good with God. | *Truth:* Going to church won't save you, but here's what PLC will do for you.

This week we will look at the third lie of Iowa's Gospel: God wants me to be happy, so this behavior is OK.

## DISCUSSION

1. How do you react when someone says, "God wants us to be happy"? What is your reaction to those who say "God wants us to be holy"?
2. Read John 4:1-26 and discuss what happened when the woman sought happiness without holiness. What happens when we seek holiness without happiness?
3. Discuss how holiness and happiness can coexist in a healthy manner in a believer's life. What safeguards are needed to keep these two elements balanced?

## THINK ABOUT IT

Tom had a livestock operation that required the use of space heaters during cold winter months to keep the animals comfortable. One winter, he experienced trouble with the machines and took them to be repaired. After several attempts, the repairman was unable to get the machines to run properly. Tom discovered the location of the manufacturer of the machines and drove 150 miles to have them worked on. These machines needed the original manufacturer to repair them, just as we need our Creator to restore us when we need to be "repaired." Your Creator understands you better than you understand yourself, and His spurring you toward a holy lifestyle is to protect you and produce the happiness He desires for you.

## DO SOMETHING

1. Look at a troubling area of your life or a troubled relationship, and ask the following questions:  
Does my Creator know me well enough that He understands what it takes to make me happy?  
  
Does He care enough about me that He will guide me toward that happiness?  
  
Do I trust His desires for me above my own desires?  
  
What do I need to do to follow God's guidance in this area of my life?
2. Now remind yourself "it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose" [Philippians 2:13], and thank Him for what He is about to do in your life.