

**Sermon Notes of  
New Hope Elder Larry Helscher's Sermon on January 7, 2018**

**"Being and Doing"**

**[In today's sermon, "Being and Doing", New Hope Elder Larry Helscher shows that being and doing is part of our Christian walk in response to the salvation God has given us.]**

Notes

Introduction:

- The football Super Bowl is coming up soon. It's just a few weeks away.
- Now football coach Tony Dungy has authored several books, one is titled, "Uncommon".
- Tony Dungy is the first African American to coach a team in the Super Bowl.
- He's also one of three men who not only played in a Super bowl but also coached a team in a Super Bowl.
- The other two are Mike Ditka and Tom Flores.
  
- Tony is now a sport's caster guru on TV.
- But not only that, Tony is also a mature Christian.
- Current quarterback Drew Brees, has written a book entitled, "Getting Stronger" which is about the hurricane in New Orleans in 2005 and how the city came together.
  
- Larry's sermon title is taken from one of Tony's chapter titles, "Being Versus Doing."
- In his book, Tony emphasizes "character" as the major part of one's "being."
- In our Christian walk, both being and doing are important, which we'll emphasize today.

Being and doing:

**1 Timothy 3:2, Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,**

- The word "overseer" is better translated "elder" or "pastor."
- Churches tend to apply these character qualities to people who are considered to be ordained as ministers.
- But every Christian should have these qualities of character, as well.
  
- This verse stresses marital faithfulness.
- Timothy was the pastor of the church at Ephesus, which had many pagan temples, whose gods and goddesses promoted sexual licentiousness.
  
- "Temperate" is another quality of character, not just with alcohol but in all aspects of life.
- Having "self-control" is not easy to live up to, especially by our own efforts.
- Being "hospitable" means more than just being entertaining – it's someone you like to be around because they are friendly and easy to talk to.

**3) not given to drunkenness, not violent but patient (gentle), not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4) He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of proper respect.**

- Again these character qualities should very much be representative in an elder's or pastor's nature.
- But these qualities should also be a part of our Christian nature as well.

**5) (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) 6) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7) He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.**

- A Christian needs to have a "good reputation with outsiders" meaning those outside of the church.

Qualities of Christian character which are all part of our being:

- "Able to teach"
  - Some commentaries say this character quality is not applicable to the whole Christian community but just to pastors and elders.
  - But that analysis is not correct. It's not just about preaching and giving Bible studies.
  - We are all teachers by the things we do and the things we say to others.
  - In essence, we are teaching others who we are and more importantly, what a Christian is like.
  - Hebrews 5:12 tells us that we all need to be teachers, "In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again."
  - Again, we can't do this on our own.
- "Patient"
  - The Greek word is *epieikes* which can also mean "mild, gentile, or patient."
  - The opposite is to be impatient.
  - It's so easy for us to be impatient in our society today.
  - We live in an "instant society" where everything is supposed to happen quickly.
  - Patience is a quality that is given to us by God.
- All the qualities mentioned here in 1 Timothy 3 are given to us – how? – by the Holy Spirit.

**John 14:12, (Jesus) "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."**

**16) "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – 17) the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."**

20) “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

- Jesus tells us that we will get the help we need and it’s from the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of truth.
- What encourages Larry, and should encourage us as well, is to see Jesus in other people.

From law to grace:

- During the time of our turmoil, when our denomination went from law to grace, a friend commented, “Now we don’t have to do anything.”
- Now, we do have a rest in Christ – a rest from the regimented enforced doing of Old Covenant laws.
- Before we were doers – observing what the New Testament called the physical shadows that pointed to Christ (Colossians 2:16-17).

Being and doing:

- These are action words in the New Testament for us as Christians to do to get in step with God.

**2 Timothy 1:6, For this reason I remind you to stir up the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7) For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.**

**Hebrews 12:1, Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.**

**Matthew 11:28, Jesus tells us, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”**

**Romans 12:18, If it is possible, as much as it lies in you, live at peace with everyone.**

- What does the phrase “lies within you” mean?
- It’s the Holy Spirit that lies within us as well as Jesus living His life in us.
- This is what motivates us to live a Christian life.

What we cannot do on our own:

- We cannot earn salvation on our own by our good works.
- Nor do we have to doubt that we are saved.
- Jesus has saved us.

**Romans 10:9, If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart, that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

- We can’t earn salvation, we can’t work for it, and we don’t deserve it by our works.
- Salvation is strictly from God’s grace.

**Ephesians 2: 8, For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – 9) not by works, so that no one can boast.**

- Salvation is God's gift to us.

**Philippians 2:12, Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,**

- Does this mean we have to do something to maintain our salvation?
- Well, let's look at what the next verse says.

**13) for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.**

- It's not us working out our salvation, but rather it's really God working in us.
- God is doing the "doing" in regards to salvation – we simply respond.
- The good works we do is our response we make to God's grace.
- The works of salvation is already finished, we just simply need to believe and accept it.

**Colossians 1:13, (AMP) For He has rescued us and has drawn us to Himself from the dominion of darkness, and has transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.**

- We have already been transferred to the kingdom of God– it has already been done for us.

**Ephesians 2:6, And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.**

- This is our spiritually reality, we are already with Jesus in heaven.

Concluding comments:

- Now when it comes to being and doing, it's a dynamic process.
- God is involved and we are also involved.
- We know that the fruit of the Spirit comes from God and that salvation comes from God.
- Our "doing" is to stir up the Spirit, to run the race, and to live our lives God's way.
- So hopefully in this coming year, we can recognize that we need both "doing and being" in our Christian walk.

Closing Prayer

Communion by Assistant Pastor Manny Hamme:

- Today, we're going to celebrate Communion.

**Luke 22:14 (Amplified version), When the hour for the meal had come, Jesus reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. 15) He said to them, "I have earnestly wanted to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."**

- This causes Manny to think, “why is Jesus looking forward to eating the Passover, just before He is about to suffer a horrible death?”
- Jesus is very much aware that he is going to be betrayed and suffer a horrible death, yet He is eager to be with his disciples.
- So when we come to the Communion table, we can understand why Jesus was eager to do this, because of the fact that He loves us.
- Jesus was willing to die for us because of His love for us and shed His blood to cover our sins, even though He was not worthy of death.
- So let us reflect on that when we come to the Communion table.