

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



416 If You Had to Choose Just One Skill...

A while back someone asked me a very interesting question. If there were four highly valued sets of skills and I could only keep one, which would it be? I'm Jerry Roberts and I'll tell you which skills they were, next on The Extra Point.

My task was to consider four separate groups of skills, then to decide which one I would choose to keep. The four are leadership skills, decision making skills, organizational skills, and people skills.

Let's start with decision making skills. Without question, the ability to make effective decisions is a critical skill. We have to be able to look at a situation, understand what happens if we take a certain action or set of actions, or if we do nothing at all.

If we don't have the answer we have to know who to involve in order to get it. Making the right decisions leads to the long-term growth and success of the organization. This would be a tough one to give up.

Next, organizational skills. I have a confession to make. I live in awe of those people who are totally organized. They always know where everything is. Nothing is ever out of place. If they make a report it's always on the money, makes sense, and nothing is left out.

They are up to date on what's needed, status of work, and who is responsible for what. If you want answers on anything, this is the person you seek out. I've known a lot of people who fit this description but I think it's safe to say that I'm not nearly one of them. Would I love to have these skills? Yes. If I ever developed such talents it would be painful to turn my back on them.

The third set of skills are people skills. The ability to communicate well, to get along with others, to build relationships that are built on

trust. Generally speaking, good people skills are the ability to listen, to relate to others on a personal or professional level.

If you have a strong set of people skills, you are someone who plays nice with the other kids. Further, if there are disagreements, you find a way to work them out fairly.

A person who has these skills likely also has a sense of how to effectively communicate ideas and motivate others. Good people skills can take us a long way in life and in our career. Could we say no to them?

Finally, leadership skills. Having a vision for where we're headed and the ability to explain that vision in such a way that others want to follow and get a piece of it. This is being the example of what it is you say you're going for. The buck stops at your desk. You are willing to be held responsible for the success you're chasing. You also have a huge desire to take others on the journey with you, and to help them develop their own skills and talents. As John Maxwell says, a leader's job is to develop more leaders.

There's not a bad choice in the four. I'd be happy with any of them. That said, I would select the leadership skills and my reason is that I want to have a role in helping others get further and do better. If the ideas I pass along today are shared, and somebody else passes them to yet others, I see value in that. Now, how about you? Which would you choose?

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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