

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



939 Has a Bad Boss Ever Altered Your Work Ethic?

Do you have a strong work ethic? Have you ever toiled for a boss who did something to change your work ethic? I'm Jerry Roberts, and that's next, on The Extra Point.

I've always had a strong work ethic. I love to push, to achieve, to help an organization succeed. However, one day, long ago, I let my emotions get the best of me, and I trashed my view of my personal work ethic.

As I've stated before, I have worked for a few miserable bosses in my career. A couple of them would make the Jerk Boss Hall of Fame. So, I know something about working for someone who can ruin your day. One of these guys did so on a fairly regular basis.

One particular day, he called me from the company headquarters, and was in a bad mood. I forget what he chewed me out for, but he called back two minutes after hanging up, and went back at it for several minutes more.

I got off the phone, looked at the four walls of the office and said to myself, "I don't need this." Then I told one of the key staffers that I'd be out for the rest of the day, and who to talk to if they needed something.

I got in my car, turned up the radio on an oldies station, and just drove. I stopped for lunch, and then drove some more. Along the way, a realization hit me. I had never done that before in any job, under any circumstances.

This man had made me mad, and sorry that I had made the choice to work there. That said, he didn't change my work ethic. I did that.

Let's define work ethic. A site called *The Center for Work Ethic Development* wrote that work ethic has seven components:

1. Attitude. Staying positive in every situation. Take control of the way you react.

2. Attendance. Showing you're reliable in every phase of your life. Be on time, every time.

3. Appearance. Being professional both in the way you act, and the way you look.

4. Ambition. Taking initiative and adding value. Do more than the minimum.

5. Acceptance. Having respect and following direction. Be coachable and play by the rules.

6. Appreciation. Demonstrating your gratitude towards others. Provide selfless service.

7. Accountability. Living honestly and having integrity with every decision you make. Refuse to rationalize bad decisions.

I realized that I had let myself get carried away. I realized that regardless of what this man said to me, the most important thing is that I would not give up who I am.

The next morning, I came in full of energy with a big smile. When he called me a couple of hours later, I greeted him with that cheery attitude. It threw him off and he forgot to bark at me.

Work ethic is something you and I own. No boss owns that for us. No boss can. It's personal. We control it. I do what I do and how I do it, because it's an agreement I make with myself. It's the same for you. Work ethic is the code we work by, and part of the code we live by. It's a big part of who we are.

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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