

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



959 How Much do you Care About Your Career? – Part 1

Suppose I asked you, “How much do you care about your career?” What would be your response? I’m Jerry Roberts, and I can hear the answer now, but how accurate will that answer be? Let’s talk that over, next, on The Extra Point.

So, here’s that question: How much do you care about your career? The answer, of course, is “I care a lot about my career.” The follow-up question is, how much is a lot? Is it enough to take total responsibility for it? The answer to that one, is “Of course, I take total responsibility.” My reply to that is, “Let’s see.”

Let’s start with a basic premise. Nobody will ever care about your career as much as you do, or should. Even your mother shouldn’t care about your career as much as you should.

Wait, is that blasphemy? Have I just stepped on every mother’s toes? How could I have the nerve to suggest that anyone — including you yourself — could ever care as much for you as your mom? As hard as this is for me to say, sorry moms, the career owner has to care more about the career than even you care about it.

Caring about it more than anyone else means that we accept that total responsibility I mentioned earlier. The phrase that pays is, “If it’s to be start, it starts with me.”

For a career to get going, the individual has to be proactive. This starts with answering another question: “What do I want, and how long am I willing to wait to get there?”

That seems like an easy question, but it’s not. Some people have been working for 20 or 30 years, and still don’t know what they want to be when they grow up. They likely never made a plan.

They got a job, maybe changed jobs a couple

of times, still no plan, and as they say — life is what happens to you while you’re planning your future — or not planning your future.

This is the situation with a huge number of people. They did okay, grew in the organization, raised a family, and retired...all without a plan. “I didn’t need one,” they might say. “The company trained me every once in a while, and things worked out okay.”

You can end up okay, if you sign on with an employer that gives a certain degree of career counseling, sets up a growth plan, provides regular training based on the needs of both the company and the individual, and helps push the employee forward toward the ultimate goal.

Yes, the employer can help facilitate the planning, and set up the training. However, the worker must have a voice in it. In fact, their voice must be the loudest one in the room.

To give you an example, if you’re doing very well and headed in the direction you’ve chosen, what happens when your boss asks you to take on a different job? You’ll get some fast training, and then be assigned to something different. Your plan is no longer *the plan* — and you know it. Now what?

Will you stand up and say, “Thanks for having confidence that I can do this new job, but I’d rather not. I want to stick with my plan.”

Most people will not make that statement. They’ll accept the new assignment, and there goes the plan. Is it possible they could say, “Hey boss, I’m happy to help you out in this situation. However, when it’s completed, I’d like to go back to what I was doing.”

(Con’t.)

If you're just starting out, find yourself at a career crossroads, or just looking to design a plan that will take you from Point A to Point B, we'll have some ideas on that tomorrow. This isn't rocket science. Anyone can do it.

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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