

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 989 Making Your Boss Like You – Part 1

Does your boss like you? Would you like it if your boss liked you more? Big deal? Not a big deal? Big deal, but not if I have to suck up? I'm Jerry Roberts, and let's chew over this likeability thing, next, on The Extra Point.

I can say that, in my career of working for over 30 bosses, I wanted each of them to like me. At least, that's how I saw things at the outset.

There were a few who treated me in ways that changed my opinion over time, but for the most part I always wanted to be liked by the person who supervised my work. It certainly can make a difference in how you feel about your job — and how long you stay there.

There are probably a thousand different ways to answer the issue of what would make us more likeable to our employer, but I have a feeling that my initial exposure to that concept might still be the best.

Big Ed, my first boss and mentor, once said, "Jerry, I like people who show up on time, don't waste time, and if they're not sure what to do, they ask."

I was 19, probably my second or third day on the job, and his statement was pretty clear. One, don't be late. Two, don't let the boss catch me just standing around. Three, rather than let that happen because I was unsure of what to do next, find out who had the answer I needed and ask questions. Pretty much every boss I've ever had liked all of that, I think.

After I became a manager, I recall a meeting with a young guy right at the beginning of the day. He appeared to understand his assignment. However, when I checked on him toward the middle of the day, I realized I was wrong about that. He hadn't progressed at all. I got him going again, and asked him why he hadn't come to me to find out how to get unstuck. He said he

figured I was busy, and anyway, he liked to figure things out for himself.

I sort of figured that maybe I was being had, and flashed on the thought of what Ed might have said, if I'd done nothing for six hours and then said to him that I preferred to figure things out for myself.

I also remembered something else Ed told me that has stuck with me for five decades. He said:

"I'm just the guy who gives you eight hours a day. What you do with that time is up to you. You can bust your butt and produce at a high level, or just be average.

You can use some of that time to get better and grow, or don't. One day you'll walk out of here with better skills, or with nothing more in your head than when you first walked in."

He said it was all about one thing, and he used a word I'm not sure I'd ever heard to that point.

"Jerry, it's all about personal *accountability*. It's your choice. Either you've got it, or you don't."

We'll have more on this topic in the days to come, but the first way to get your boss to like you, is to be accountable. Every person, at every level, in every organization, every day — has to make this decision.

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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