

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1085 When Your Current Employer Treats You Poorly

Do you feel trapped in your job? Do you work for a boss who not only doesn't appreciate your efforts and performance, but treats you poorly on top of it? I'm Jerry Roberts and let's talk about a topic that is getting increased attention in today's workplace, next, on The Extra Point.

I have been told by some Guam workers that they dread going into work because their boss does not treat them well. I've seen the same story in online forums and groups, blog posts, articles, and books.

The examples I've seen and been told of often include lack of respect, no real appreciation for the work done, verbal abuse, zero praise, even being accused of faking illness to get time off — and it goes on from there.

Right now, there are several million jobs back on the mainland that are still unfilled. Workers have a lot of options, and may find it relatively easy to get away from abusive situations.

In a place like Guam, where jobs aren't as plentiful, the situation may not be so simple. To complicate matters, because wages are so low in many cases, someone making a decent salary may feel they won't be able to match what they're now making if they quit. Especially so, with the cost of living in Guam steadily rising.

Somebody making, say, \$18-20 hourly isn't likely to walk away for half of that in an entry-level job elsewhere. They'll stay put, absorb the bad behavior and negativity being layered onto them, and just tough it out. Sometimes, sadly, they don't feel they deserve any better.

Let me paraphrase an old story. A bottle of water at Home Depot may cost as little as 25-30 cents, when bought in a 24-pack. The same bottle in the supermarket is about a dollar. At a gas station or mom and pop store,

a dollar-fifty. In a hotel store, it could be up to three dollars. At an airport, I've seen it as much as four bucks.

The bottle and the brand is the same, the only thing that changes is the place. Each of them has placed a different value on the exact same product. What does that mean to you?

When you're treated badly and made to feel like you're worth nothing...change places.

Go where you are given the value you deserve. Surround yourself with people who really do appreciate your worth. Don't settle for less.

Even if you can't leave immediately because of the personal economics involved, make up your mind to do what you need to do. Here are some ideas to consider.

1. Give your boss a chance. Some employers are blind to how they treat people. They don't wake up every day with the intent to make your day miserable. Maybe they cope poorly with the challenges they face. Explain how you feel. It's possible you'll be surprised at the reaction you get. Maybe things can work out for you, without you having to leave.
2. If the reaction is negative or there is no change, put the word out to your personal network that you are looking to make a career change, and ask if anyone has a line on a job.
3. Do the same if you belong to a professional or civic organization. If you attend church, let the people you worship with know that you're looking for a new start.
4. Send your resume with an upbeat cover letter to companies you think you'd like to work for. Many jobs are unadvertised, and the timing may work in your favor if someone is thinking of hiring a person with your skills.
(Con't.)

5. I've said this for years. Finding a job is a full-time job. If you have to keep your existing position, then leverage your free time and whatever relationships you have to find your next one.

Stay focused, be professional and continue to deliver value for your current employer, and then get moving on your future.

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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