

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 1135 What Everybody Should Know Before 30 — Part 1

I came across an article three months ago, written by a man in his 30s, who listed key things a person should know before they turn 30. As I went down the list, I began to think of what I knew by the time I turned 30. I'm Jerry Roberts and we'll see how you stack up, next, on The Extra Point.

Today, a 30-year-old is a young Millennial, part of a very bright, but very confused generation. As we go through this list today, tomorrow, and perhaps longer, I think we can all find a lot to chew on.

Generation Z, just behind the Millennials, can compare things and see how far along they are. Older Millennials will see how close they came to what the author thought relevant. The rest of us can think of what we knew at the age of 30, and perhaps how our kids and grandkids are lining up. Today, issues about our work.

1. Slow and steady consistency is the best driver of growth. The story of the tortoise and the hare taught us that spurts of productivity can put us far ahead of our competition. However, there's a danger. If that leads to complacency and laziness, a more consistent competitor can steal the victory.

2. How you live your life and treat your career is critically important. We all like wins, rewards, and being recognized as special. That said, what's really important in life? When it comes to career, is what I do now just a job or is it a stepping stone to the next level? Do I have a plan?

3. You don't know how things will turn out, only whether you're up for the ride. Let me counter this with a popular phrase, *The best way to predict the future is to create it.* If you are up for the ride, then don't do it half-way. If you want to achieve a specific goal, figure out what it will take and then give it 100%. Never

put yourself in a position where someday you'll look back and sadly say, "If only."

4. Who you are beats what you do. It's very exciting to receive job promotions early in our career. We're flying high. A fancy title, more money, and life is good — right? Remember, none of us get to the mountaintop alone. Be sure to acknowledge those who helped, and help them when they need it. That shows who you are.

5. People who are ahead of you used to be exactly where you are. In almost all cases, they sweated to move forward. Don't be envious of their success. Instead, get to know them and learn how they did it.

6. Don't keep waiting for the perfect time to take action. Some people wait years and years for the so-called perfect time. If it comes, they probably won't recognize it. You've heard me say it: "When's the best time to plant a tree? Answer: 20 years ago. When's the next best time? Answer: Right now.

7. Patterns repeat themselves. If you want to see change in your life, change your patterns. Einstein gave the definition of insanity as doing the same thing over and over, seeing the same results...then doing it again and somehow expecting different results. Don't fear change.

8. The ability to focus is a huge competitive advantage. Our digital lives bring us many distractions which can affect our performance. If we can eliminate those distractions, it's almost like having a superpower.

9. Most people stop reading as they get older. Don't do it. Keep a book with you, either on your digital device or ink and paper, you'll find time to read if you really want it. Break time, standing in lines, going to the restroom, and there's more. Keep reading.  
(Con't.)

10. Give the next person the benefit of the doubt, they're just trying to live the best way they can, same as you. When you're in your teens and 20s, almost everything in life is a crisp black and white. The older you get, the grayer life gets.

You don't have to abandon your principles to give somebody a break. Sometimes, the best thing to do is provide a good example.

As the old church saying goes, the way you live your life is the best sermon you'll ever preach.

So, how did you do?

When you hit 30, did you have all of this figured out? If you're not yet 30 or someone in your family is heading there, is the score close?

We'll look at this topic again tomorrow.

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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