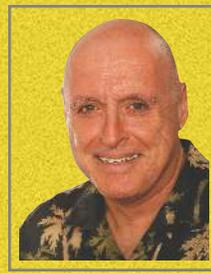


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1152 How Open-Minded Are You?

If somebody asked you the question, “Hey, how open-minded are you,” how open-minded would you say you are? I’m Jerry Roberts and let’s find out the answer to that question, next, on The Extra Point.

The question is, how open-minded are you? First, let’s define what it means to be open-minded.

Do you believe that everybody should be free to express their beliefs, even if you do not agree with their views and opinions?

Or, do you feel others can’t be right, so there’s no need to hear them out?

Can you set aside your personal biases, in order to be totally free to interpret and analyze those ideas that run contrary to yours?

Or, do you immediately filter everything said by someone through those biases; then, when you decide they’re wrong and you’re right, you decide there’s no longer any reason to listen to them?

Are you a good listener who always seeks to understand how other people see the world and situations?

Or, do you listen only to respond, and as soon as the person takes a breath you’re ready to jump in with all the reasons you are correct?

Are you willing, even anxious, to have your ideas challenged?

Or, do you avoid anything that goes against the grain of your beliefs?

America has become the land of biases, and generally this leads us into discussions about politics. However, it also applies to workplace issues.

When workers differ in their approach to solving

problems, it will usually go in one of two ways. They’ll either be open to considering each other’s ideas, come to a conclusion on which is best, then take action.

If not that, what we frequently see is one or both sides digging in, soliciting support from others on the team in favor of their approach, hoping to tip the scales their way to win the dispute.

If you’re open-minded, are you willing to let those who oppose your opinion have a free path to proving they’re right?

The late author and leadership guru Stephen Covey, once advised two combatants — one a builder and the other an environmental group, to accept the challenge to learn about and be able to present the merits of the other side’s case.

The two had been unable to reach agreement and were headed for a long and expensive legal action. By accepting Covey’s challenge, they were able to resolve their differences.

If you have trouble with another person’s way of dealing with problems, or managing people, or indeed their politics — would you take the time to learn their positions well enough so you could argue their case?

Is it your way or the highway, or are you willing to risk exposing your ideas to scrutiny, plus truly hearing how others see things. How open-minded are you...really?

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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