

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1511 What Attracts Us to Certain Leaders?

Following yesterday's commentary, Ray asked me whom I believed were the three best people to hold the title of Governor of Guam. I began to think about that, and decided to go in a different direction. I'm Jerry Roberts, and we'll talk about governors on The Extra Point.

Leadership is a complex and often confusing concept that grabs for our attention and influences our lives in various ways, from politics to business and beyond.

We often find ourselves drawn to certain leaders, even if we're not always exactly sure why that is. It could be a single quality, yet something so powerful that it draws us in.

Here's a list of some of those traits:

Vision and Purpose. Leaders who possess a clear vision and a compelling purpose are attractive. They provide direction. If it's a direction that we like, it inspires trust, motivates action, and rallies people around a common cause.

Authenticity and Integrity. Leaders who have shown us a better present and hope for a better future make us feel they are real.

Charismatic Communication. When they talk, we listen. There's something in their voice, how they hit certain words, how they get their point across. They connect emotionally with their audience. If they talk to us, we feel that connection, that we're important to them.

Empathy. Simply, they have the ability to make us feel that they understand us. If they have this understanding, we believe they'll make decisions that work in our favor.

Competence and Expertise. They have a confidence about them. They're good at what they do, and we believe in their ability.

An Empowering and Supportive Leadership Style. They seek to help us improve, to grow, to get further and do better.

Resilience. We judge that this leader can face up to whatever challenges come his/her way, and overcome obstacles for the benefit of all. In tough and turbulent times, we seek strength and stability.

Does an attractive leader need all those things to draw people closer? No. Maybe they'll be just so-so at most of them, but really good at one or two. That might be enough to turn us into a follower.

Let's revisit some of the language used in those leadership characteristics:

- inspires trust
- motivates action
- rallies people
- hope
- connect emotionally
- they understand
- empowering
- supportive
- strength
- stability

A leader makes us feel safe, secure, hopeful, understood, better than we were before, and that we're headed in the right direction. To be a powerful and successful leader, I think you need the ability to make people feel those things.

This goes for each of Guam's governors, as well as CEOs and business owners. Where are you on the "feel scale"?

Somebody once said, "A leader isn't a leader until someone chooses to follow." That doesn't mean you demand that they follow. That's just following orders. When something about you or maybe everything about you commands their attention, that's different. That's them following because they want to.

All of Guam's elected governors got to their position because they displayed some of these qualities. Can you think of any governor who could rightly lay claim to all of them? (Con't.)

As for who the top three are, I'll leave that for others to decide. As we mentioned yesterday, perhaps it's best left for historians. Otherwise, it just becomes another popularity contest.

It's a fun topic and no doubt can result in some spirited conversations.

Maybe you'll have a chance to think why you follow who you follow. How do they make you feel?

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3FM, the Ray Gibson Show, and First Hawaiian Bank, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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