

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1552 What Would it Take For You to be Unreasonable?

In the workplace, reason is often considered to be a virtue. With it you get collaboration, harmony, and maybe effective problem-solving. Reasonable behavior means that we're likely fairly easy to get along with. However, there are instances when breaking free from the confines of reason can lead to breakthroughs, innovation, and transformative change. Our question is, what would it take for you to be unreasonable at work? I'm Jerry Roberts and we'll explore this next, together, on The Extra Point.

Before the break we spoke of using reason, and acting in a reasonable manner. Both are useful and certainly improve our image in the organization.

People generally like to be seen as being reasonable. Other people generally like to be around people who are reasonable. Let's get back to the question. When would you choose not to be so reasonable? Let's see how you feel about...

1. Challenging the Status Quo. Things have been done the same way for so long that you can't remember the last time any changes were made. By questioning established norms and processes, we can ignite a spark of creativity and inspire fresh ideas.

We can stand in the face of the inevitable shouts, "But that's how we've always done it." Would that make you the least bit unreasonable, or would it beckon you to curl up into the warmth of a comfort zone?

2. When Goals Aren't Being Met. Would you be slightly unreasonable when the goals of the organization — as well as your own — were way off the mark, and it was pretty clear that everything was headed in the wrong direction?

What if the leadership of your team seemed okay with how things were going, but you're getting flashbacks from watching *Titanic* too many times? Your group is headed for the iceberg and you know what's about to happen.

Are you still reasonable in that scenario, or are screaming "reverse engines!"

3. Buckle up. When Another Worker Has Been Wronged and/or Social Justice. What would you do if one of your coworkers got totally shafted by the "man", er, I mean your employer? Would you stand up for them? Would you make a sign and stand out in front of the business in protest?

How about grabbing a tent and building an encampment on company property? That will show how dedicated you are. You won't leave until all of your demands are met. Right on.

And what of social justice? Before you get all fired up about justice, doesn't there need to be injustice? Do we need to focus on events happening around the world, when there are plenty to get riled up about right here?

How about a hospital that's in total disrepair, and all anybody can think about is where to put the next one?

How about the condition of our schools, and that includes the physical structures, along with the structure of the learning being done? It's been headed south for decades. Why?

How about a local economy that relies almost completely upon federal dollars? How about tourist numbers that may take years to come back to hoped-for levels, if they ever do? How about Guam's youth, who are leaving in droves because local opportunities aren't even close to what they can find in the mainland?

How about a housing market that is squeezing out what's left of Guam's middle class, and elected leaders have just ignored?

You want social justice? You need some good reasons to get unreasonable? That's a start and I'll bet you can add to the list.

(Con't.)

This November, get off your butt and get unreasonable. Park the political careers of those elected officials who think the way things are is the way they ought to be. Two years from now, rinse and repeat.

Whether it's the governance of our island or how your organization operates, you can sit back, suck it up and settle for same-same, or you can do something about it.

I don't find myself in agreement with former president Barack Obama very often these days, but he said one thing years ago that struck a nerve and I can totally be on board with.

On the campaign trail prior to becoming our nation's leader, he said this, February 5, 2008:

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

By embracing unreasonableness when appropriate, individuals can unlock their full potential, inspire others, and create lasting impact in the workplace and beyond.

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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