

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1657 Post-Election Relationship Rebuilding

Regardless of which side you were on in the presidential election, I'm guessing you're glad that the decision was a quick one. I think most people would rather lose right away, than have the issue stretch out over weeks or months, and them end up on the short end. While Trump now prepares to assume power for a second term and Republicans have full control of Congress, it's time for political followers on both sides to assess any relationship damage that the campaign may have brought on. I'm Jerry Roberts and we'll chew this over, next on the Extra Point.

One of the unfortunate aspects of politics is when two people support different candidates and the words they exchange get out of hand. Many of us have seen the harsh posts that have been sent up daily on social media.

It can get ugly fast, and people who once were on decent terms are soon at each other's throats. Maybe you've been the target of one or more of these. Maybe you've launched a few yourself.

The issue is, now that the election is over, how do we patch up negative relationships caused by all of this political rock throwing? Here's a few ideas.

1. If your side won, don't gloat. Be gracious in both victory and defeat.
2. Don't look for an apology, unless something major went down and an apology is clearly appropriate.
3. This is hard for most people, but be the one who first reaches out to the other person. If you feel they should be reaching out to you instead, that's probably your ego working.
4. When the time is right, you and the other individual should get into a conversation on any topic other than politics. "Hey, how about those Dodgers?" That topic will work, except if said other individual is a member of the fan

base in New York, San Francisco, and San Diego.

Behavioral health professionals might want to hijack our discussion at this point, saying that it's essential that both sides forgive each other. I'm not sure about that.

I don't post much in social media, and when I do it's rarely about politics. That being said, there have been a few times when I've danced my way into a thread started by an old friend, and things went sideways.

This friend is a friend of 50+ years. We always got along well. Then, in this campaign, it all went downhill.

I've been clear about my beliefs. I'm not a Trump fanboy. I think style points count and I feel he comes up short. His performance, pre-Covid, was good on the three issues I care most about.

1. The border and the current as well as future implications of millions of illegal immigrants coming across.
2. The overall economy.
3. Potential expanded war in Europe and the Middle East, with American boots on the ground.

Kamala Harris sidestepped all three questions or gave generic answers. She had dozens of opportunities to address them, but refused. That made my choice Trump, by default.

My friend is a straightup Trump hater, and some of the people who populate his threads are what Ray would term "Trump deranged." You literally cannot write a single word of praise for Trump or even take a neutral stance. Only fervent Trump critics are welcome.

This is my friend, so I reached out to him with a private message. (Con't.)

I presented strong evidence, easily checked by a video, that disputed points he and others had made. He flatly rejected them, saying he didn't trust the source. It didn't matter that the video was conclusive proof. He didn't want to know.

I pretty much stopped connecting at that point and left his threads and him alone. I didn't see the point any longer. He wasn't interested in reason.

How can i apply the formula given earlier?

1. I don't see that I won. If Trump successfully deals with the three issues I'm concerned with, America wins.

2. I don't want an apology. Yeah, I think he went about it in the wrong way. It doesn't mean I feel the relationship has been trashed.

3. Would I reach out to him first, to reconnect? Yes.

4. Could we enter into a non-political chat, and smooth things over a bit? Absolutely. Is it possible that we could have a legitimate conversation about the campaign at some point? I think so, but not for awhile.

Americans needs a lot of healing. It's going to have to take place one relationship at a time. If you've got somebody you need to talk to about all this, feel free to download transcript #1657 at guamtraining.com, and look for a chance to start that process.

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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