

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 1751 Bosses Who Are Tough to Deal With – Part 1

How would you describe your boss? Let me ask the question again, this time in the form of a workplace survey. Is your boss: Great, Good, Fair, Poor, or Terrible? I'm Jerry Roberts, and we'll give you a minute to think of your current boss as well as all the others you may have had, before we jump into this topic, next on The Extra Point.

I caught a survey over the weekend about bosses, and it turned out that one in three workers polled said they had seen a manager insult or try to humiliate a worker. I've seen other surveys where some managers were repeat offenders, making their department or team a toxic place to be.

This got me to thinking about good bosses and bad bosses I've had, and the road I've traveled. Further, when I became a manager, what my experiences had taught me, and the kind of leader I wanted to be.

I saw this quote:

"The only thing worse than a bad boss is a bad boss who thinks they're a good boss."  
— *Unknown*

I worked for one man whom I learned some important lessons from, but he fits this description. He absolutely thought he was a great boss, and he was the only one who did. He reminded me of the quote by Oscar Wilde, the famous novelist and playwright:

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."

My favorite time with this boss was dropping him off at the airport.

Many people have been credited with a line that this business owner earned:

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator."

I've also worked for a couple who could talk

and talk and talk, and end up not saying much. They weren't bad people, they just went on and on.

I can't recall ever having a manager who was an angry and/or abusive person; but I've known people who have had to deal with that kind of bad attitude. I hope you haven't.

Author Rashida Rowe gives this opinion:

"There are some people who always seem angry and continuously look for conflict. Walk away from these people. The battle they're fighting isn't with you, it's with themselves."

Obviously, if this type of person is the one you report to, walking away is not an option. That being said, understanding the demons someone is battling may not solve the problem you have, but it may give you a different perspective.

I was spoiled in my career right out of the gate, as I worked under the guidance of the man you might have heard me call Big Ed.

He was the best boss I ever had, and he showed me what a manager should be. His was the example I tried to follow when it was my turn to lead.

So, if you've got a boss that's tough to deal with for the reasons mentioned or others, what can you do to make the best of the situation — for the benefit of your career...and your sanity?

We'll have some ideas on that tomorrow.

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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