

WORK ETHIC – LESSON 11

“ME? WRONG? NO WAY!”

Accountability in the Workplace

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INTRODUCTION: Do you know anyone in life who struggles with admitting that they are wrong? Does the same person have a hard time admitting when they have made a mistake? Could this be you? In this lesson, we will discuss the essential value of accountability in the workplace and your personal life. This is a huge deal. There is no way you can be involved in the welding, machining, and mechanical engineering career fields without making mistakes and being wrong from time to time. Believe me, if you go into these careers, you will have many opportunities in which you will need to admit you are wrong or messed up. Working with people who are willing to admit when they are wrong or messed up makes for a very healthy work environment. Try doing work and your personal life with folks who cannot admit when they are wrong or have messed up and you will soon find out just how difficult people can be. **ESPECIALLY** if “passing the buck” follows their lack of accountability. Please answer the following questions.

1. Define the word “accountability.”
2. On a scale of 1-10, where would you rate yourself with your ability to admit when you are wrong?
3. Do you struggle with being accountable in life? How come?
4. Have you ever been in a situation with another person in which they would not admit that they were wrong? Please describe the situation. How did it leave you feeling?
5. Reflect on a time in life when **YOU** were wrong and did not admit it or own up to it. Explain the situation. As you look back on the situation, what damage did this do to the other person or people involved? What damage did this do to **YOU**? Do you regret how you handled this?
6. “*Pride goes before the fall*” – What do you think this means when it comes to being or admitting wrongdoing in the workplace?
7. Have you ever “passed the buck”? How did it make you feel afterwards? Did you ever go back and “make it right” with the other person or people involved? If not, why?

8. Real life- Describe how it leaves you feeling inside when the following people cannot admit when they are wrong.

BOSS

DAD

MOM

FRIEND

FELLOW EMPLOYEE

GIRL FRIEND/BOYFRIEND/SPOUSE

COACH

SIBLING

9. Describe a time in life when you made a big mistake. What did you learn from it?

10. *"Mistakes that aren't admitted cannot be learned from"* – What does this mean to **YOU**?

11. How can admitting your mistakes in the workplace earn you respect amongst your fellow employees?

12. As you look ahead to all of the possible relationships that you will have in your future, rate in order the top 5 relationships in which your ability to admit when you are wrong will be crucial to the health of the relationship.