

## WORK ETHIC – LESSON 9

### “The Boss Man!”

#### *Authority in the Workplace Work Ethic*

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**INTRODUCTION:** Oh my, how some people have a problem with authority! Whether that authority comes from parents, bosses, school officials, managers, coaches, the government or law enforcement, many people struggle with this issue. In the workplace, you better learn to handle the authority. This authority is there for a reason and until you have walked in these shoes, you really don't understand the complexities of being in a position of workplace authority. Leading people is hard work and putting up with their crap is even harder. Just as your employer has an obligation to treat you with dignity, respect, and kindness, you also have this same obligation toward those in authority where you work. Trust me, you really don't know the stresses involved with being in authority in a business. SOOOOOOO much more than the average employee understands or recognizes. In this lesson, we will examine your views of authority and hopefully you will come to a greater understanding of why authority is needed and just how difficult it is to be in these positions. Hopefully, one day your hard work is going to pay off and you may get asked to be in authority over others in your workplace. Don't kid yourself, this will not be easy. Dealing with employees might be the hardest part of your job. And dealing with the boss man may prove crazy difficult as well. Having a better understanding of authority will help you in life and as well as in the workplace. Please answer the following questions.

1. Define the word “authority”.
2. Describe an area and/or person in your life in which you struggle with authority? Be honest here. Why do you struggle with this authority?
3. Why is authority needed in a family?
4. Why is authority needed in a society?
5. Why is authority needed in a business?
6. What “headaches” can you foresee from being in an authority position in a welding or machining business? List 2 specific issues.
7. Have you ever been in any position of authority or leadership? Describe the situation in detail. How did it go? Good or bad?

8. Google the term “**chain of command**”? Why is it SO important to follow this premise in the workplace?
9. Describe someone in authority whom you respect. List 3 key attributes of this person that make you want to respect their authority.
10. As you look down the road of life, where will **YOUR** authority be needed in the future? List all you can think of.
11. Authority can be abused. What dangerous things would you have to be on the lookout for **in yourself** if you were promoted to a position of authority in your workplace?

**Real Life Scenario #1:** How you treat people when you are in a position of authority will matter greatly. If you were to be in a position of authority in the workplace and worked in that position for many years, what would you hope your coworkers would say about you when you retired?

**Real Life Scenario #2:** You have worked hard in a welding fabrication business such as Spika Fabrication. The Spikas have recognized you as a very skilled employee with great work ethic. They also believe you have the leadership skills to lead a fabrication team in their business and they want to promote you. This means a greater salary but it also comes with some real challenges. You will be leading a team of 8 welder fabricators. On Friday, you were a fellow welder fabricator. The following Monday you are no longer an “equal” to these same men and women. You are now their “boss” and “leader”. They now have to answer to you and now you have to lead them in the workplace. Answer the following questions:

- a) What do you think is going through the minds of your former “equals” as they prepare to work “under” you?
- b) What is going through your mind as you prepare to be “above” those whom you worked with as “equals”.
- c) What fears are now coming into play as you think of being in an authority position on Monday?
- d) What advice would you give yourself to be ready for Monday? Trust me, things aren’t the way they were Friday when you left. Don’t kid yourself.