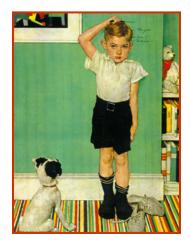# Measuring Up

Are there occasions when you feel that you just don't measure up to the expectations for believers as laid out in the Bible? If so, you are not alone; count me in company with you. Those experiences of deep self-evaluation routinely come at church. Often, my testimony as I leave a worship service is, "Well, the preacher certainly stepped on my toes today." For me – and, perhaps, for you – the following illustration helps:

In *Christian Reader*, Jim Corley tells of a conversation he had with a friend named Alex who attended his church.

Alex was struggling over his many failures to live the Christian life the way he knew he should. One day, they met at the car dealership where Alex worked. That day in his office, Alex got straight to the point. "Jim, I feel like a hypocrite every time I go to church because I fail to live for Christ so often."

Nodding to the area outside of the cubicle where they sat, Jim asked: "Alex, what do you call this part of the dealership?"

"You mean the showroom?" Alex asked. Jim smiled and said, "Yes. And what's behind the showroom, past the parts counter?"

"The service department," Alex said confidently.

"What if I told you I didn't want to bring my car to the service department because it was running rough?" Jim asked.

Alex quickly replied, "That would be crazy! That's the whole point of service departments – to fix cars that aren't running right."

"You're absolutely right," Jim replied. "Now, let's get back to our initial conversation. Instead of thinking of church as a showroom where image is everything, start thinking of it as God's service department. Helping people get back in running order with God is what the church is all about."

Although we can never achieve a life of perfection, we can find peace, joy and harmony with God as we ask Him to forgive our transgressions and follow Him in obedience.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

– Beecher Hunter