

HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP? *by John Cospers*

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A Christian man on a game show is shocked to learn he ranks lower than unbelievers because he has neglected his family.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4M, 1F

THEME: The measure of a man

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 Timothy 5:8

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon starter, illustration

CHARACTERS:

JONNY—game show announcer

MONTE—game show host

ED—an adult video store owner

WILMA—an old, mean school teacher

JIM—a pastor

PROPS: Video screen, a ruler

COSTUMES: A suit for Monte. Sleazy outfit for Ed. Old lady dress for Wilma. A nice shirt and slacks for Jim.

SOUND: Five wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A game show set

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The video screen and PowerPoint can be utilized much more than indicated in the script. Make sure you know your audience and communicate the message well following the drama. This sketch is NOT about judging unbelievers, but giving believers a reality check.

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Theme music plays as the sketch begins with a bare stage.

JONNY: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the game show, “How Do You Measure Up?” The ONLY game show that truly and accurately rewards you for being the great, or not so great, person you are. It’s time to see how you measure up with your fellow man, and here’s the man who’ll rank your lousy life—Monte Eubanks!

MONTE enters.

MONTE: Thank you, Jonny, and welcome everyone to “How Do You Measure Up?” The show that reveals just how good, or how crummy, you really are. Let’s bring up our first contestant, Jonny?

JONNY: Our first contestant is an adult video store owner, Ed Reilly!

ED runs down the aisle, waving to the people.

MONTE: Ed, welcome to the show.

ED: Hi, Monte. Great to be here.

MONTE: Tell us, Ed, why do you think you’re a good man?

ED: Well, I run a good business. All my records are up to date. Taxes paid. Got sixteen kids from eight moms, and every one of them’s well fed and cared for.

MONTE: Do you think your status as an adult video store will hurt you?

ED: Well, I figure my work as a crusader for first amendment rights would more than balance that out.

MONTE: Let’s go to the big board and see how you measure up.

Drum roll. MONTE and ED turn to the video screen.

MONTE: Jonny, on a scale of 1 to 10, where does Ed Reilly rank?

The number one pops up on the screen.

MONTE: Wow, one. What do you think, Ed?

ED: I think your show is rigged.