Whether I Come or Am Absent

Phil 1:27 – 2:13

1. How know whether his appeal to freedom is not really indifference?
   a. Ch. famous for listing as virtues certain weaknesses of personality. Shy = humble; don't care = patience; fear = faith; awkward = good.
   b. How can you know?
2. Raised question yesterday with reference to sermon by Paul: "whether in pretense or truth".
3. Raise today with ref to our relat. to other people, & again one that triggered by Paul "whether I come ---- freedom or indifference."
   a. I person, shy, prayer, optimistic, got in a stir to die better.
   b. In my culture of really loved & missed others if I can't come I'll die.' Here – My choice to stay
4. Perhaps in looking at him see other.
5. Perhaps this is –
   a. An appeal to professional ~~stance~~ distance. Long held as essential. No close friends in order to be effective.
   b. Protecting himself and them. Expresses hope to strangers and open door to disappointment; love too much & get hurt. all do this. Mother during pregnancy; soldier on battlefield; student & upcoming exams.
   c. Virtue made of necessity. In jail, cut loved alone long enough must tell self don't need another. The rejected do it; friendless do it, on retirement date. Raw, quivering flesh of lonely hurt cannot stay exposed.

d. Possibly he doesn't care. Possible to move thru a ministry & never really love. Del. - "Jesus & woman in crowd; all. - "Marfita" & "dyg with only a few."
No. He loves them! Thank God for every woman, & groom for you; hold you in my heart.
Not only these. Dal reflects - Think out your ys; names in Rom. 16.

c. It is because they are close ~~that~~ they can live with th. distance.

a. No whining, leaning, depending, shaming. Each a full person; we choose between; There is giving in my staying, staying in my giving.

b. No pinching of hyperthin satellites to feed ego & call it love & community. Pretty girl & fat girl; athlete & nerd; affluent & a project, bright & dull; or tight knit groups of one polarization. Partners, shared from beginning.

7. Distance, yes, but distance is an ingredient of love. Doesn't always seem so. Paul so accused of not loving Israel hurt. Read Rom. 9. "I could wish myself". When one comes along with such love, all of us who still languishing for helpful relations move to walk & give him room — he will change the world.