1. Read Philippians 2:25-30.

a. A careful reading of this passage reveals that Paul sent Epaphroditus back to the church at Philippi sooner than perhaps planned. What was the reason? (verses 25-26)

b. What do you learn about the relationship between Epaphroditus and the members of the church in Philippi from verse 26?

c. How would you compare the way Paul felt about him with the way his church apparently felt about him?

d. What insights can you draw from the fact that Epaphroditus’ and the church’s affection was mutual? How is Galatians 6:7 illustrated by their mutual affection?

e. How do you know Paul had great affection for Epaphroditus as well? (verse 27)

f. When was the last time a group of people rejoiced at your return following an absence? (verse 28)

g. How does it make you feel to know that you have been missed and that your welfare has been a matter of concern to others?

h. Does that kind of concern surface “overnight?” What goes into cultivating that kind of tender affection?

i. What phrase in verse 30 seems to indicate the kind of person Epaphroditus was?

j. What does it mean not to regard one’s own life?

k. Why are people attracted to those who don’t regard their own life?

l. How would a group of impartial observers describe the manner in which you do, or do not, “regard your own life?”

2. Read Galatians 3:26-29.

a. What is it that makes all Christians one? (verse 27)

b. What does the image of being clothed with Christ (verse 27) add to the idea of covering the things that might otherwise divide us?

c. What are some of the modern barriers or dividing walls the church struggles with today? (like those mentioned in verse 28)

3. Read Ephesians 6:10-20. Outline below all the components of spiritual armor that a solider for Christ must put on if he is to be victorious in spiritual warfare.

4. On the general continuum described in this lesson – brother › worker › solider › messenger › minister – where would you place yourself?

a. If you sense a need to move forward, what obstacles must be removed?

b. If you could choose a type of ministry to be involved in, what would it be?

c. How does Paul say in Romans 12:1-2 that we are to discover that perfect place of service (ministry) that is the will of God for us?