

**SERIES: CAN I CONTEND?**

**MESSAGE: CONTEND WITH...**

**1 John 4:2-3** NKJV **2**By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, **3**and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the **spirit of the Antichrist**, which you have heard was coming, and is **now already in the world**.

The White Horse: Disruption and Deception

The Red Horse: Fear and Violence

The Black Horse: Chaos in Commerce

The Pale Horse: Disease and Death

SERIES SCRIPTURE: **Jeremiah 12:5** "If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses?..."

### **HOW Can I CONTEND?**

#### **#1 CONTEND WITH COVERING**

**1 Thess 5:12-13** NLT Dear brothers and sisters, HONOR those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work.

**WE ARE BEST AS ONE BODY**

#### **#2 CONTEND WITH CARE**

APPROACH the ISSUES w/ Concern for OTHERS... More than just Protecting myself

**-THIS IS MINISTRY-**

**1 Thessalonians 5:14** NLT Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/Gzh5m5vDWwQ>

**The SECRET to being Ministered TO is to be Ministered THROUGH**

#### **#3 CONTEND WITH GRACE**

**1 Thess 5:15** NLT See that no one pays back evil for evil, but **always try to do good** to each other and to all people.

Mercy- Spares Us from Hell

Grace- Give us ACCESS to JESUS

**GIVE People what they NEED Despite what they may DESERVE**

#### **#4 CONTEND WITH JOY**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16** NLT Always be joyful.

God's Will is FULL of ***Discomfort, delay, risk, suffering, inconveniences, and obstacles***

**Nehemiah 8:10** NIV "Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

**Happiness is External**

**Happiness happens by Chance**

**CHOICE!!!**

**Joy is Internal**

**JOY happens by**

**Happiness is based on Happenings**

**JOY is based on JESUS**

(Philippians 4:4 NIV) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

“Joy is the determined CHOICE to PRAISE God in all things.” – Kay Warren