

GOSPEL PEARLS

The instruction manual

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14_05_2020



Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I

have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other. (John 15, 9-17)

God wants his children to be happy. That is why He gave us His commandments, an "instruction manual " to help us live happily and well. Jesus did not abolish the commandments, but rather he fulfilled them. Thus, Jesus, by teaching on the commandments and bringing them back to their original purity, is our sole intercessor in our striving to love of the Father. May we, therefore, always seek Jesus's help to follow God's commandments, so that He can intercede on our behalf with the Father at the hour of our death.