

The need for a statement of faith arose shortly after the beginning of the Vineyard movement in 1983. We were growing quite rapidly and people were coming into the movement from a variety of theological backgrounds and church traditions. To remain true to the faith once and for ever given to the saints, we knew it was necessary to develop a statement of faith that was faithful to Scriptures and represented the diversity of those who are committed to live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and in relationship with one another in the Vineyard.

The Bible is our final authority in matters of faith and practice. Therefore, the statements that follow reflect our best attempt to express what we believe, and how we are to live out that faith at this time. Upon further reflection, greater biblical insight, or increased wisdom through experience, these statements could be revised. Until such time, the Vineyard USA Board of Directors has formally adopted this document as our official statement of Faith. This action was taken in 1994.

The understanding that the Kingdom of God is the integrating motif of our understanding of the story of God, the Bible and our theology has influenced the structure of this document. From beginning to end, this Statement of Faith reflects our understanding that biblical theology is eschatological in nature and this eschatological dimension is expressed in terms of the Kingdom of God.

The Vineyard USA Board commends this Statement of Faith for use by all our pastors and in all our churches. We pray that God will bless our sincere desire and humble attempt to be ambassadors of His rule and reign through our lives and that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

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The Vineyard USA – A Community of Churches
Sugar Land, Texas
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1. God the King and the Holy Trinity

WE BELIEVE that God is the Eternal¹ King². He is an infinite,³ unchangeable⁴ Spirit,⁵ perfect⁶ in holiness,⁷ wisdom,⁸ goodness,⁹ justice,¹⁰ power¹¹ and love.¹² From all eternity¹³ He exists as the One¹⁴ Living¹⁵ and True¹⁶ God in three persons¹⁷ of one substance,¹⁸ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,¹⁹ equal in power and glory.²⁰

¹Deuteronomy 33:27; Romans 1:20; ²Psalms 95:3; Isaiah 43:15; ³Psalms 147:5; Job 11:7-9; ⁴James 1:17; ⁵John 4:24; ⁶Matthew 5:48; ⁷Isaiah 6:3; ⁸1 Peter 115-16; ⁹Psalms 104:24; Proverbs 2:6; Isaiah 28:29; ¹⁰Exodus 33:19; ¹¹Psalms 63:2; ¹²Psalms 31:19; ¹³Psalms 33:5; ¹⁴Psalms 89:14; ¹⁵Isaiah 30:18; ¹⁶Exodus 15:6; ¹⁷John 4:8; ¹⁸Isaiah 43:13; ¹⁹Isaiah 45:5; ²⁰1 Corinthians 8:4; ²¹Psalms 42:2; ²²Psalms 84:2; ²³Jeremiah 10:10; ²⁴John 1:18; ²⁵John 10:30; ²⁶John 14:9; ²⁷John 14:16-17; ²⁸John 14:26; ²⁹John 15:26; ³⁰2 Corinthians 3:17-18; ³¹John 1:1; ³²John 1:14; ³³2 Corinthians 3:17; ³⁴Matthew 28:19-20; ³⁵2 Corinthians 13:14; ³⁶Revelation 1:4; ³⁷Revelation 5:13; ³⁸Ephesians 3:14-21

2. God the King: The Creator and Ruler of All Things

WE BELIEVE that God's kingdom is everlasting.²¹ From His throne,²² through His Son, His eternal Word,²³ God created,²⁴ upholds²⁵ and governs²⁶ all that exists:²⁷ the heavenly places,²⁸ the angelic hosts,²⁹ the universe,³⁰ the earth,³¹ every living thing³² and mankind.³³ God created all things very good.³⁴

²¹ Psalms 45:6; ²²Psalm 145:13; ²³Daniel 4:3; ²⁴Psalm 93:1-2; ²⁵John 1:1-3; ²⁶1 Corinthians 8:6; ²⁷Colossians 1:15-16; ²⁸Hebrews 1:1-2; ²⁹Genesis 1:1; ³⁰Psalms 95:3-5; ³¹Colossians 1:17; ³²Hebrews 1:3; ³³Psalms 103:19; ³⁴Psalms 104:24-29; ³⁵Psalms 96:4-6; ³⁶Psalms 89:11; ³⁷Psalms 103:20-21;

³⁰Colossians 1:16-17; ³¹Psalms 104:5; ³²Psalms 103:22; ³³Psalms 22:28; Psalm 47:8; ³⁴Genesis 1:31

3. Counterfeit Kingdom: Satan and Demonic Hosts

WE BELIEVE that Satan, originally a great, good angel, rebelled against God, taking a host of angels with him.³⁵ He was cast out of God's presence and, as a usurper of God's rule, established a counter-kingdom of darkness³⁶ and evil on the earth.³⁷

³⁵Revelation 12:7-9; ³⁶2 Corinthians 11:14; Colossians 1:13-14; Ephesians 6:12; ³⁷Mark 3:22-26; Ephesians 2:1-2; 1 John 5:19

4. The Kingdom in the Creation of Man, the Fall and The Doctrine of Original Sin

WE BELIEVE that God created mankind in His own image, male and female,³⁸ for relationship with Himself and to govern the earth.³⁹ Under the temptation of Satan,⁴⁰ our original parents fell from grace,⁴¹ bringing sin,⁴² sickness⁴³ and God's judgment of death to the earth.⁴⁴ Through the fall, Satan and his demonic hosts gained access to God's good creation.⁴⁵ Creation now experiences the consequences and effects of Adam's original sin.⁴⁶ Human beings are born in sin,⁴⁷ subject to God's judgment of death⁴⁸ and captive to Satan's kingdom of darkness.⁴⁹

³⁸Genesis 1:26-27; ³⁹Genesis 1:26; ⁴⁰Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9; ⁴¹Genesis 3:8; Romans 1:21; Romans 5:16; ⁴²Romans 5:12; ⁴³John 5:14; ⁴⁴1 Corinthians 15:22; ⁴⁵John 8:44; 1 John 5:19; ⁴⁶Romans 8:20-23; ⁴⁷Psalms 51:5; ⁴⁸Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 2:5; Romans 2:12; Hebrews 9:27; ⁴⁹Galatians 1:3-5; Galatians 4:8-9; Colossians 1:13

5. God's Providence, Kingdom Law and Covenants

WE BELIEVE that God did not abandon His rule over the earth⁵⁰ which He continues to uphold by His providence.⁵¹ In order to bring redemption, God established covenants⁵² which revealed His grace to sinful people.⁵³ In the covenant with Abraham, God bound Himself to His people Israel, promising to deliver them from bondage to sin and Satan and to bless all the nations through them.⁵⁴

⁵⁰Psalms 24:1; Psalm 96:10; ⁵¹Isaiah 40:22; Hebrews 1:3; ⁵²Romans 9:4; ⁵³Ephesians 2:12; ⁵⁴Genesis 17:3-8; Genesis 12:2-3; Genesis 15:4-6; Romans 4:3-5; Romans 4:16; Romans 4:20-25; Galatians 3:6-9; Galatians 3:13-14

WE BELIEVE that as King, God later redeemed His people by His mighty acts from bondage in Egypt⁵⁵ and established His covenant through Moses, revealing His perfect will and our obligation to fulfill it.⁵⁶ The law's purpose is to order our fallen race⁵⁷ and to make us conscious of our moral responsibility.⁵⁸ By the work of God's Spirit,⁵⁹ it convicts us of our sin⁶⁰ and God's righteous judgment against us⁶¹ and brings us to Christ alone for salvation.⁶²

⁵⁵Exodus 15:3-18; ⁵⁶Exodus 19:3-6; Exodus 24:3-4; Exodus 24:7; Romans 8:3-4; Romans 8:12-14; ⁵⁷Deuteronomy 5:1-3; Deuteronomy 30:15-18; Galatians 3:23-25; ⁵⁸Psalms 25:8-10; Romans 7:7; ⁵⁹John 15:26; John 16:8-11; 2 Corinthians 3:14-17; ⁶⁰Romans 7:13; Galatians 3:19; Galatians 3:21-22; ⁶¹Romans 2:1-11; ⁶²Galatians 3:24; Philippians 3:8-9

WE BELIEVE that when Israel rejected God's rule over her as King,⁶³ God established the monarchy in Israel⁶⁴ and made an unconditional covenant with David,⁶⁵ promising that his heir would restore God's kingdom reign over His people as Messiah forever.⁶⁶

⁶³1 Samuel 8:6-8; ⁶⁴1 Samuel 8:21-22; 1 Samuel 9:15-16; 1 Samuel 10:1; 1 Samuel 10:24; ⁶⁵2 Samuel 7:11b-16; Psalm 89:34-37; ⁶⁶Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 11:1-5; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Ezekiel 34:23

6. Christ the Mediator and Eternal King

WE BELIEVE that in the fullness of time,⁶⁷ God honored His covenants with Israel and His prophetic promises of salvation⁶⁸ by sending His Son,⁶⁹ Jesus, into the world.⁷⁰ Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary,⁷¹ as fully God and fully man in one person,⁷² He is humanity as God intended us to be.⁷³ Jesus was anointed as God's Messiah and empowered by the Holy Spirit,⁷⁴ inaugurating God's kingdom reign on earth,⁷⁵ overpowering the reign of Satan by resisting temptation,⁷⁶ preaching the good news of salvation,⁷⁷ healing the sick,⁷⁸ casting out demons⁷⁹ and raising the dead.⁸⁰ Gathering His disciples,⁸¹ He reconstituted God's people⁸² as His Church⁸³ to be the instrument of His kingdom.⁸⁴ After dying for the sins of the world,⁸⁵ Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day,⁸⁶ fulfilling the covenant of blessing given to Abraham.⁸⁷ In His sinless, perfect life⁸⁸ Jesus met the demands of the law⁸⁹ and in His atoning death on the cross⁹⁰ He took God's judgment for sin⁹¹ which we deserve as law-breakers.⁹² By His death on the cross He also disarmed the demonic powers.⁹³ The covenant with David was fulfilled in Jesus' birth from David's house,⁹⁴ His Messianic ministry,⁹⁵ His glorious resurrection from the dead,⁹⁶ His ascent into heaven and His present rule at the right hand of the Father.⁹⁷ As God's Son and David's heir,⁹⁸ He is the eternal Messiah-King,⁹⁹ advancing God's reign throughout every generation and throughout the whole earth today.¹⁰⁰

⁶⁷Mark 1:15; Galatians 4:4; ⁶⁸Romans 1:2-4; ⁶⁹John 1:14; ⁷⁰John 1:17-18; ⁷¹Luke 1:30-35, ⁷²John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-7; ⁷³Romans 5:19; 1 Corinthians 15:22; 1 Peter 2:22, 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:29; ⁷⁴Luke 3:21-22; Luke 4:16-21; ⁷⁵Mark 1:14-15; Luke 11:20; Luke 17:20-21; ⁷⁶Luke 4:1-13; ⁷⁷Luke 4:43; ⁷⁸Luke 4:40; ⁷⁹Luke 4:41; ⁸⁰Luke 7:14-17; ⁸¹Mark 1:16-17; ⁸²Mark 3:13-15; ⁸³Matthew 16:18; ⁸⁴Luke 9:1-2; Luke 10:1-17; ⁸⁵John 1:29; John 6:51; John 4:9-10; ⁸⁶Mark 8:31; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5; ⁸⁷Galatians 3:13-14; ⁸⁸Acts 3:14-15; Hebrews 4:15; ⁸⁹Romans 5:18-19; ⁹⁰1 Peter 2:24; ⁹¹Galatians 3:13; 2 Corinthians 5:21; ⁹²Romans 1:18; Romans 1:32; Romans 2:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; ⁹³Colossians 2:13-15; ⁹⁴Matthew 1:1; ⁹⁵Luke 1:68-72; Luke 2:10-11; Matthew 9:27; ⁹⁶Acts 2:24-28; ⁹⁷Acts 2:29-36; ⁹⁸Romans 1:1-4; ⁹⁹Hebrews 1:1-3; ¹⁰⁰1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Ephesians 1:19-23; Revelation 5:5

7. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Church at Pentecost in power,¹⁰¹ baptizing believers into the Body of Christ¹⁰² and releasing the gifts of the Spirit to them.¹⁰³ The Spirit brings the permanent indwelling presence of God to us¹⁰⁴ for spiritual worship,¹⁰⁵ personal sanctification,¹⁰⁶ building up the Church,¹⁰⁷ gifting us for ministry,¹⁰⁸ and driving back the kingdom of Satan by the evangelization of the world¹⁰⁹ through proclaiming the word of Jesus¹¹⁰ and doing the works of Jesus.¹¹¹

¹⁰¹Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4; ¹⁰²1 Corinthians 12:13; ¹⁰³1 Corinthians 12:4-7; ¹⁰⁴John 14:16-17; ¹⁰⁵Romans 12:1; Ephesians 5:18-20; ¹⁰⁶Romans 8:3-4; ¹⁰⁷1 Corinthians 14:12; 1 Corinthians 14:26; ¹⁰⁸Romans 12:4-6; ¹⁰⁹Luke 11:20; 1 John 3:8b; ¹¹⁰Ephesians 6:10-20; ¹¹¹John 14:12-13; Romans 15:18-19; 1 Corinthians 4:20

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ¹¹² and that He is our abiding Helper,¹¹³ Teacher,¹¹⁴ and Guide.¹¹⁵ We believe in the filling or the empowering of the Holy Spirit,¹¹⁶ often a conscious experience,¹¹⁷ for ministry today.¹¹⁸ We believe in the present ministry of the Spirit¹¹⁹ and in the exercise of all of the biblical gifts of the Spirit.¹²⁰ We practice the laying on of hands for the empowering of the Spirit,¹²¹ for healing,¹²² and for recognition and empowering of those whom God has ordained to lead and serve the Church.¹²³

¹¹²Romans 8:9-10; ¹¹³John 16:7; ¹¹⁴John 14:26; ¹¹⁵John 16:13-15; Romans 8:14; ¹¹⁶Luke 24:49; Acts 4:31; ¹¹⁷Acts 8:18-19; Acts 19:1-2; ¹¹⁸1 Corinthians 2:4-5; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 6:4-7; ¹¹⁹Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:15-17; ¹²⁰1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 1 Corinthians 14:1; 1 Corinthians 14:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21; ¹²¹Acts 8:14-17; Acts 19:6; ¹²²Mark 1:41; Luke 6:18b-19; Mark 16:18; ¹²³Acts 13:1-3; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6

8. The Sufficiency of Scripture

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of Holy Scripture¹²⁴ so that the Bible is without error¹²⁵ in the original manuscripts. We receive the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments¹²⁶ as our final, absolute authority, the only infallible rule of faith¹²⁷ and practice.¹²⁸

¹²⁴2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; John 14:26; ¹²⁵Psalms 19:7-9; Psalm 119:30; Psalm 119:43; Psalm 119:89; Matthew 5:17-18; John 3:34; John 10:35; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Revelation 22:6; ¹²⁶Luke 24:44; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Revelation 22:18-19; ¹²⁷Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35; ¹²⁸Matthew 7:21; Matthew 7:24; Luke 1:38; James 1:22-25

9. The Power of the Gospel Over the Kingdom of Darkness

WE BELIEVE that the whole world is under the domination of Satan¹²⁹ and that all people are sinners by nature¹³⁰ and choice.¹³¹ All people therefore are under God's just judgment.¹³² Through the preaching of the Good News of Jesus and the Kingdom of God¹³³ and the work of the Holy Spirit,¹³⁴ God regenerates,¹³⁵ justifies,¹³⁶ adopts¹³⁷ and sanctifies¹³⁸ through Jesus by the Spirit¹³⁹ all who repent of their sins¹⁴⁰ and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord¹⁴¹ and Saviour.¹⁴² By this they are released from Satan's domain and enter into God's kingdom reign.¹⁴³

¹²⁹Luke 4:5-7; 1 John 5:19; ¹³⁰1 Corinthians 15:22; Ephesians 2:1-3; ¹³¹Romans 1:21-23; Romans 1:32; ¹³²Romans 1:18; Romans 2:5; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 5:6; ¹³³Mark 1:14-15; Acts 8:12; Acts 28:31; Ephesians 5:5; ¹³⁴John 16:7-11; ¹³⁵John 3:5-8; 1 Peter 1:23; ¹³⁶Romans 5:1-2; Romans 5:9; ¹³⁷Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6; ¹³⁸Ephesians 5:25; Hebrews 13:12; ¹³⁹1 Peter 1:1-2; ¹⁴⁰Acts 2:38; ¹⁴¹Romans 10:9; ¹⁴²1 John 4:13-15; ¹⁴³Colossians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:20

10. The Church: Instrument of the Kingdom

WE BELIEVE in the one,¹⁴⁴ holy,¹⁴⁵ universal Church.¹⁴⁶ All who repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit¹⁴⁷ and form the living Body of Christ,¹⁴⁸ of which He is the head¹⁴⁹ and of which we are all members.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁴John 17:20-21; Ephesians 4:3-6; ¹⁴⁵1 Corinthians 3:16-17; ¹⁴⁶Matthew 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 2:18-19; 1 Peter 2:9-10; ¹⁴⁷Titus 3:4-7; ¹⁴⁸Romans 12:4-5; ¹⁴⁹Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 5:23; ¹⁵⁰1 Corinthians 12:27

11. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church: water baptism¹⁵¹ and the Lord's Supper.¹⁵² Both are available to all believers.

¹⁵¹Matthew 28:19-20; ¹⁵²1 Corinthians 10:14-17; 11:23-26

12. The Kingdom of God and the Final Judgment

WE BELIEVE that God's kingdom has come in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁵³ that it continues to come in the ministry of the Spirit through the Church,¹⁵⁴ and that it will be consummated in the glorious, visible and triumphant appearing of Christ¹⁵⁵ - His return to the earth as King.¹⁵⁶ After Christ returns to reign,¹⁵⁷ He will bring about the final defeat of Satan and all of his minions and works,¹⁵⁸ the resurrection of the dead,¹⁵⁹ the

final judgment¹⁶⁰ and the eternal blessing of the righteous and eternal conscious punishment of the wicked.¹⁶¹ Finally, God will be all in all¹⁶² and His kingdom, His rule and reign,¹⁶³ will be fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth,¹⁶⁴ recreated by His mighty power, in which righteousness dwells¹⁶⁵ and in which He will forever be worshipped.¹⁶⁶

¹⁵³Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 4:23; Matthew 12:28; ¹⁵⁴Matthew 6:10; Matthew 10:7-8; Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:11; John 15:26-27; Romans 14:17-18; ¹⁵⁵Mark 13:26; Acts 1:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; ¹⁵⁶Revelation 19:11-16; ¹⁵⁷Matthew 25:31-32; 1 Corinthians 15:23-25; ¹⁵⁸Revelation 20:10; ¹⁵⁹1 Corinthians 15:51-52; ¹⁶⁰John 5:28-30; Revelation 20:11-15; ¹⁶¹Matthew 25:31-46; ¹⁶²1 Corinthians 15:24-28; ¹⁶³1 Timothy 6:13-16; ¹⁶⁴2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:5; ¹⁶⁵Revelation 21:27; ¹⁶⁶1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 7:9-12

If you desire further information regarding our theological position e-mail (info@vineyardusa.org) to request the paper entitled "Association of Vineyard Churches Theological and Philosophical Statement".