

112 Romans 8:9-10; 113 John 16:7; 114 John 14:26; 115 John 16:13-15; Romans 8:14; 116 Luke 24:49; Acts 4:31; 117 Acts 8:18-19; Acts 19:1-2; 118 1 Corinthians 2:4-5; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 6:4-7; 119 Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:15-17; 120 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 1 Corinthians 14:1; 1 Corinthians 14:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21; 121 Acts 8:14-17; Acts 19:6; 122 Mark 1:41; Luke 6:18b-19; Mark 16:18; 123 Acts 13:1-3; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6

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 practice¹²⁸.

124 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; John 14:26; 125 Psalm 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; 126 Luke 24:44; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Revelation 22:18-19; 127 Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35; 128 Matthew 7:21; Matthew 7:24; Luke 1:38; James 1:22-25

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 choice¹³¹. All people therefore are under God's just judgment¹³². Through the preaching of the Good News of Jesus and the Kingdom of God¹³³ and the work of the Holy Spirit¹³⁴, God regenerates¹³⁵, justifies¹³⁶, adopts¹³⁷, and sanctifies¹³⁸ through Jesus by the Spirit¹³⁹ all who repent of their sins¹⁴⁰ and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord¹⁴¹ and Savior¹⁴². By this they are released from Satan's domain and enter into God's Kingdom reign¹⁴³.

129 Luke 4:5-7; 1 John 5:19; 130 1 Corinthians 15:22; Ephesians 2:1-3; 131 Romans 1:21-23; Romans 1:32; 132 Romans 1:18; Romans 2:5; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 5:6; 133 Mark 1:14-15; Acts 8:12; Acts 28:31; Ephesians 5:5; 134 John 16:7-11; 135 John 3:5-8; 1 Peter 1:23; 136 Romans 5:1-2; Romans 5:9; 137 Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6; 138 Ephesians 5:25; Hebrews 13:12; 139 1 Peter 1:1-2; 140 Acts 2:38; 141 Romans 10:9; 142 1 John 4:13-15; 143 Colossians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:20

THE CHURCH: INSTRUMENT OF THE KINGDOM

WE BELIEVE in the one¹⁴⁴, holy¹⁴⁵, universal Church¹⁴⁶. 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 Christ¹⁴⁸, of which He is the head¹⁴⁹ and of which we all are members¹⁵⁰.

144 John 17:20-21; Ephesians 4:3-6; 145 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 146 Matthew 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 2:18-19; 1 Peter 2:9-10; 147 Titus 3:4-7; 148 Romans 12:4-5; 149 Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 5:23; 150 1 Corinthians 12:27

BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church: water baptism¹⁵¹ and the Lord's Supper¹⁵². Both are available to all believers.

151 Matthew 28:19-20; 152 1 Corinthians 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE FINAL JUDGMENT

WE BELIEVE that God's Kingdom has come in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ¹⁵³, that it continues to come in the ministry of the Spirit through the Church¹⁵⁴, and that it will be consummated in the glorious, visible and triumphant appearing of Christ¹⁵⁵—His return to the earth as King¹⁵⁶. After Christ returns to reign¹⁵⁷, He will bring about the final defeat of Satan and all of his minions and works¹⁵⁸, the resurrection of the dead¹⁵⁹, the final judgment¹⁶⁰, and the eternal blessing of the righteous and eternal conscious punishment of the wicked¹⁶¹. Finally, God will be all in all¹⁶², and His Kingdom, His rule and reign¹⁶³, will be fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth¹⁶⁴, recreated by His mighty power, in which righteousness dwells¹⁶⁵ and in which He will forever be worshipped¹⁶⁶.

153 Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 4:23; Matthew 12:28; 154 Matthew 6:10; Matthew 10:7-8; Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:11; John 15:26-27; Romans 14:17-18; 155 Mark 13:26; Acts 1:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; 156 Revelation 19:11-16; 157 Matthew 25:31-32; 1 Corinthians 15:23-25; 158 Revelation 20:10; 159 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 160 John 5:28-30; Revelation 20:11-15; 161 Matthew 25:31-46; 162 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; 163 1 Timothy 6:13-16; 164 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:5; 165 Revelation 21:27; 166 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 7:9-12

SALVATION

WE BELIEVE that eternal salvation is solely the gift of God, and that all who, in sincere contrition, have repented of their sins, believed that Jesus Christ shed His holy blood on the cross for their forgiveness, and received the Lord Jesus Christ by faith alone, are born again of the Holy Spirit and adopted as children of God¹⁶⁷.

167 John 3:3-5; Titus 3:5; Acts 2:38; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 8:16

CREEDS

WE BELIEVE in the historic and orthodox statement of faith as expressed in the Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasian creeds.

COVENANT OF MARRIAGE

WE BELIEVE that God created human beings as male and female¹⁶⁸. The complementary, relational nature of the human race as "male and female" reflects the created order given by God when He created human beings "in His image"¹⁶⁹. It is with joy in our finitude that we are to receive the gift of being either male or female.

WE BELIEVE Scripture grants two life-enhancing options for sexual behavior: monogamous marital relations between one naturally biological man and one naturally biological woman¹⁷⁰, or sexual celibacy¹⁷¹. Either is a gift from God, given as He wills for His glory and the good of those who receive and rejoice in His gift to them.

WE BELIEVE that monogamous heterosexual marriage bears a significance which goes beyond the regulation of sexual behavior, the bearing and raising of children, the formation of families, and the recognition of certain economic and legal rights, all of which are important. Marriage between a woman and a man is emphatically declared in Scripture to create a "one flesh" union¹⁷², which in turn signifies the mystery of the union between Christ and His body, the Church¹⁷³. This means that the foundational understanding of marriage is as a covenant grounded in promises between a man and a woman which finds its divinely intended expression in the "one flesh" union of husband and wife, and between the "one flesh" union of husband and wife and God¹⁷⁴.

WE BELIEVE that sex outside of marriage as defined here (such as premarital, extramarital, or same-sex relationships) to be outside the will of God (sin) and not condoned, supported, or participated in by this church.

168 Genesis 1:27; 169 Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 5:1, 3; Genesis 9:6; 1 Corinthians 11:7; James 3:9; compare with Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:23-24; Colossians 3:10; 170 Genesis 1:27-28; Genesis 2:18, Genesis 2:21-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:5-8; compare with Hebrews 13:4; 171 Matthew 19:12; 1 Corinthians 7:7; 172 Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:5; 173 Ephesians 5:22-33; 174 compare with Proverbs 2:16-17; Malachi 2:14; Ephesians 5:31-32

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CORE VALUES AND BELIEFS

Our Statement of Faith is based on the Bible. The Bible is our final authority in all matters of faith and practice. However, since the Bible is a diverse collection of narrative stories, poetry, law, and letters, it is helpful to summarize its teaching in a concise form that can be comprehended both by those deeply rooted in the Church and by those who have little exposure to the Bible. This is the historical function that the ancient universal Church creeds played in the first four hundred years of Christ-centered faith.

It is also important for each community of faith to express these ancient truths in its own language and not merely adopt the language of another age and culture. Every community of faith has two major obligations in regard to its faith, namely absolute faithfulness to the Word of God and sensitivity to the world in which they live. This means that the Vineyard movement must express the historical, biblical, orthodox Christian beliefs that we hold in common with all Christians and the particular doctrines that are our distinctive voice in terms that are relevant to 21st century Christians.

Our Statement of Faith is based on the conviction that the Kingdom of God is the central theological motif that gives definition to all that we believe. It is a Kingdom of God-centered theology. This statement is our best current understanding of the Bible from that Kingdom perspective. Our prayer is that God will bless our sincere attempt to be humble ambassadors of His rule and reign and to be a people that practice the presence of God and proclaim His Gospel, so that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

GOD THE KING AND THE HOLY TRINITY

WE BELIEVE that God is the Eternal¹ King². He is an infinite³, unchangeable⁴ Spirit⁵, perfect⁶ in holiness⁷, wisdom⁸, goodness⁹, justice¹⁰, power¹¹, and love¹². From all eternity¹³ He exists as the one¹⁴ living¹⁵ and true¹⁶ God in three persons¹⁷ of one substance¹⁸, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit¹⁹, equal in power and glory²⁰.

¹ Deuteronomy 33:27; Romans 1:20; ² Psalm 95:3; Isaiah 43:15; ³ Psalm 147:5; Job 11:7-9; ⁴ James 1:17; ⁵ John 4:24; ⁶ Matthew 5:48; ⁷ Isaiah 6:3; ¹ Peter 1:15-16; ⁸ Psalm 104:24; ⁹ Proverbs 2:6; ¹⁰ Isaiah 28:29; ⁹ Exodus 33:19; ¹⁰ Psalm 63:2; ¹⁰ Psalm 31:19; ¹⁰ Psalm 33:5; ¹⁰ Psalm 89:14; ¹⁰ Isaiah 30:18; ¹¹ Exodus 15:6; ¹² 1 John 4:8; ¹³ Isaiah 43:13; ¹⁴ Isaiah 45:5; ¹ Corinthians 8:4; ¹⁵ Psalm 42:2; ¹⁶ Psalm 84:2; ¹⁶ Jeremiah 10:10; ¹⁷ John 1:18; ¹⁸ John 10:30; ¹⁹ John 14:9; ¹⁹ John 14:16-17; ¹⁹ John 14:26; ¹⁹ John 15:26; ² Corinthians 3:17-18; ¹⁸ John 1:1; ¹⁹ John 1:14; ² Corinthians 3:17; ¹⁹ Matthew 28:19-20; ² Corinthians 13:14; ²⁰ Revelation 1:4; ²⁰ Revelation 5:13; ²⁰ Ephesians 3:14-21

GOD THE KING: THE CREATOR AND RULER OF ALL THINGS

WE BELIEVE that God's Kingdom is everlasting²¹. From His throne²², through His Son, His eternal Word²³, God created²⁴, upholds²⁵ and governs²⁶ all that exists²⁷: the heavenly places²⁸, the angelic hosts²⁹, the universe³⁰, the earth³¹, every living thing³² and mankind³³. God created all things very good³⁴.

²¹ Psalm 45:6; ²¹ Psalm 145:13; ²¹ Daniel 4:3; ²² Psalm 93:1-2; ²³ John 1:1-3; ¹ Corinthians 8:6; ²⁴ Colossians 1:15-16; ²⁴ Hebrews 1:1-2; ²⁴ Genesis 1:1; ²⁴ Psalm 95:3-5; ²⁵ Colossians 1:17; ²⁵ Hebrews 1:3; ²⁶ Psalm 103:19; ²⁶ Psalm 104:24-29; ²⁷ Psalm 96:4-6; ²⁸ Psalm 89:11; ²⁹ Psalm 103:20-21; ³⁰ Colossians 1:16-17; ³¹ Psalm 104:5; ³² Psalm 103:22; ³³ Psalm 122:28; ³³ Psalm 47:8; ³⁴ Genesis 1:31

COUNTERFEIT KINGDOM: SATAN AND DEMONIC HOSTS

WE BELIEVE that Satan, originally a great, good angel, rebelled against God, taking a host of angels with him³⁵. 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 earth³⁷.

³⁵ Revelation 12:7-9; ³⁶ 2 Corinthians 11:14; ³⁶ Colossians 1:13-14; ³⁶ Ephesians 6:12; ³⁷ Mark 3:22-26; ³⁶ Ephesians 2:1-2; ¹ John 5:19

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 female³⁸, for relationship with Himself and to govern the earth³⁹. Under the temptation of Satan⁴⁰, our original parents fell from grace⁴¹, bringing sin⁴², sickness⁴³ and God's judgment of death to the earth⁴⁴. Through the fall, Satan and his demonic hosts gained access to God's good creation⁴⁵. Creation now experiences the consequences and effects of Adam's original sin⁴⁶. Human beings are born in sin⁴⁷, subject to God's judgment of death⁴⁸ and captive to Satan's kingdom of darkness⁴⁹.

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

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 providence⁵¹.

In order to bring redemption, God established covenants⁵² which revealed His grace to sinful people⁵³. 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 them⁵⁴.

⁵⁰ Psalm 24:1; ⁵⁰ Psalm 96:10; ⁵¹ Isaiah 40:22; ⁵¹ Hebrews 1:3; ⁵² Romans 9:4; ⁵³ Ephesians 2:12; ⁵⁴ Genesis 17:3-8; ⁵⁴ Genesis 12:2-3; ⁵⁴ Genesis 15:4-6; ⁵⁴ Romans 4:3-5; ⁵⁴ Romans 4:16; ⁵⁴ Romans 4:20-25; ⁵⁴ Galatians 3:6-9; ⁵⁴ 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 it⁵⁶. The Law's purpose is to order our fallen race⁵⁷ and to make us conscious of our moral responsibility⁵⁸. By the work of God's Spirit⁵⁹, it convicts us of our sin⁶⁰ and God's righteous judgment against us⁶¹ and brings us to Christ alone for salvation⁶².

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

WE BELIEVE that when Israel rejected God's rule over her as King⁶³, God established the monarchy in Israel⁶⁴ and made an unconditional covenant with David⁶⁵, promising that his heir would restore God's Kingdom reign over His people as Messiah forever⁶⁶.

⁶³ 1 Samuel 8:6-8; ⁶⁴ 1 Samuel 8:21-22; ⁶⁴ 1 Samuel 9:15-16; ⁶⁴ 1 Samuel 10:1; ⁶⁴ 1 Samuel 10:24; ⁶⁵ 2 Samuel 7:11b-16; ⁶⁵ Psalm 89:34-37; ⁶⁶ Isaiah 9:6-7; ⁶⁶ Isaiah 11:1-5; ⁶⁶ Jeremiah 23:5-6; ⁶⁶ Ezekiel 34:23

CHRIST THE MEDIATOR AND ETERNAL KING

WE BELIEVE that in the fullness of time⁶⁷, God honored His covenants with Israel and His prophetic promises of salvation⁶⁸ by sending His Son⁶⁹, Jesus, into the world⁷⁰. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary⁷¹, as fully God and fully man in one person⁷², He is humanity as God intended us to be⁷³. Jesus was anointed as God's Messiah and empowered by the Holy Spirit⁷⁴, inaugurating God's Kingdom reign on earth⁷⁵, overpowering the reign of Satan by resisting temptation⁷⁶, preaching the good news of salvation⁷⁷, healing the sick⁷⁸, casting out demons⁷⁹ and raising the dead⁸⁰. Gathering His disciples⁸¹, He reconstituted God's people⁸² as His Church⁸³ to be the instrument of His Kingdom⁸⁴. After dying for the sins of the world⁸⁵, Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day⁸⁶, fulfilling the covenant of blessing given to Abraham⁸⁷. 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-breakers⁹². By His death on the cross He also disarmed the demonic powers⁹³. The covenant with David was fulfilled in Jesus' birth from David's house⁹⁴, His Messianic ministry⁹⁵, His glorious resurrection from the dead⁹⁶, His ascent into heaven and His present rule at the right hand of the Father⁹⁷. As God's Son and David's heir⁹⁸, He is the eternal Messiah-King⁹⁹, advancing God's reign throughout every generation and throughout the whole earth today¹⁰⁰.

⁶⁷ Mark 1:15; ⁶⁷ Galatians 4:4; ⁶⁸ Romans 1:2-4; ⁶⁹ John 1:14; ⁷⁰ John 1:17-18; ⁷¹ Luke 1:30-35; ⁷² John 1:14; ⁷³ Philippians 2:5-7; ⁷³ Romans 5:19; ¹ Corinthians 15:22; ¹ Peter 2:22; ² Corinthians 5:21; ² Corinthians 8:29; ⁷⁴ Luke 3:21-22; ⁷⁴ Luke 4:16-21; ⁷⁵ Mark 1:14-15; ⁷⁵ Luke 11:20; ⁷⁵ Luke 17:20-21; ⁷⁶ Luke 4:1-13; ⁷⁷ Luke 4:43; ⁷⁸ Luke 4:40; ⁷⁹ Luke 4:41; ⁸⁰ Luke 7:14-17; ⁸¹ Mark 1:16-17; ⁸² Mark 3:13-15; ⁸³ Matthew 16:18; ⁸⁴ Luke 9:1-2; ⁸⁴ Luke 10:1-17; ⁸⁵ John 1:29; ⁸⁵ John 6:51; ⁸⁵ John 4:9-10; ⁸⁶ Mark 8:31; ¹ Corinthians 15:3-5; ⁸⁷ Galatians 3:13-14; ⁸⁸ Acts 3:14-15; ⁸⁸ Hebrews 4:15; ⁸⁹ Romans 5:18-19; ⁹⁰ 1 Peter 2:24; ⁹¹ Galatians 3:13; ² Corinthians 5:21; ⁹² Romans 1:18; ⁹² Romans 1:32; ⁹² Romans 2:12; ² Thessalonians 1:6-10; ⁹³ Colossians 2:13-15; ⁹⁴ Matthew 1:1; ⁹⁵ Luke 1:68-72; ⁹⁵ Luke 2:10-11; ⁹⁵ Matthew 9:27; ⁹⁶ Acts 2:24-28; ⁹⁷ Acts 2:29-36; ⁹⁸ Romans 1:1-4; ⁹⁹ Hebrews 1:1-3; ¹⁰⁰ 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; ¹⁰⁰ Ephesians 1:19-23; ¹⁰⁰ Revelation 5:5

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Church at Pentecost in power¹⁰¹, baptizing believers into the Body of Christ¹⁰² and releasing the gifts of the Spirit to them¹⁰³. The Spirit brings the permanent indwelling presence of God to us¹⁰⁴ for spiritual worship¹⁰⁵, personal sanctification¹⁰⁶, building up the Church¹⁰⁷, gifting us for ministry¹⁰⁸ and driving back the kingdom of Satan by the evangelization of the world¹⁰⁹ through proclaiming the word of Jesus¹¹⁰ and doing the works of Jesus¹¹¹.

¹⁰¹ Acts 1:8; ¹⁰¹ Acts 2:1-4; ¹⁰² 1 Corinthians 12:13; ¹⁰³ 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; ¹⁰⁴ John 14:16-17; ¹⁰⁵ Romans 12:1; ¹⁰⁵ Ephesians 5:18-20; ¹⁰⁶ Romans 8:3-4; ¹⁰⁷ 1 Corinthians 14:12; ¹ Corinthians 14:26; ¹⁰⁸ Romans 12:4-6; ¹⁰⁹ Luke 11:20; ¹ John 3:8b; ¹¹⁰ Ephesians 6:10-20; ¹¹¹ John 14:12-13; ¹¹¹ 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 Helper¹¹³, Teacher¹¹⁴ and Guide¹¹⁵. We believe in the filling or the empowering of the Holy Spirit¹¹⁶, often a conscious experience¹¹⁷, for ministry today¹¹⁸. We believe in the present ministry of the Spirit¹¹⁹ and in the exercise of all of the biblical gifts of the Spirit¹²⁰. We practice the laying on of hands for the empowering of the Spirit¹²¹, for healing¹²², and for recognition and empowering of those whom God has ordained to lead and serve the Church¹²³.