Statement of Faith

This is modified from the Vineyard USA statement of faith. While we are not part of the Vineyard USA community of churches, we believe this provides a great starting place as a statement of the Christian faith.

Note statement 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10 are modified from the official Vineyard statements and statement 13 is an additional statement and the key to effective faith.

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; 2Psalm 95:3; Isaiah 43:15; 3Psalm 147:5; Job 11:7-9; 4James 1:17; 5John 4:24; 6Matthew 5:48; 7Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 115-16; 8Psalm 104:24; Proverbs 2:6; Isaiah 28:29; 9Exodus 33:19; Psalm 63:2; Psalm 31:19; 10Psalm 33:5; Psalm 89:14; Isaiah 30:18; 11Exodus 15:6; 12 John 4:8; 13Isaiah 43:13; 14Isaiah 45:5; 1 Corinthians 8:4; 15Psalm 42:2; Psalm 84:2; 16Jerimiah 10:10; 17John 1:18; John 10:30; John 14:9; John 14:16-17; John 14:26; John 15:26; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; 18John 1:1; John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 3:17; 19Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Revelation 1:4; 20Revelation 5:13; Ephesians 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 Psalm 45:6; Psalm 145:13; Daniel 4:3; 22Psalm 93:1-2; 23John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15-16; Hebrews 1:1-2; 24Genesis 1:1; Psalm 95:3-5; 25Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3; 26Psalm 103:19; Psalm 104:24-29; 27Psalm 96:4-6; 28Psalm 89:11; 29Psalm 103:20-21; 30Colossians 1:16-17; 31Psalm 104:5; 32Psalm 103:22; 33Psalm 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 into unbelief against God and thus disobeyed God,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, 17; Romans 1:21; Romans 5:16; 42Romans 5:12; 43John 5:14; 441 Corinthians 15:22; 45John 8:44; 1 John 5:19;

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46Romans 8:20-23; 47Psalm 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

50Psalm 24:1; Psalm 96:10; 51Isaiah 40:22; Hebrews 1:3; 52Romans 9:4; 53 Genesis 3:17, Ephesians 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 He convicts us of our sin₆₀, our righteousness in Jesus and God's righteous judgment against us₆₁ God's judgment of the devile_{1a}, and brings us to Christ alone for salvation.62 (Modified from the official Vineyard statement) 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; 58Psalm 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; 61a John 16:8-11; 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; 66lsaiah 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 Abraham and Israel and His prophetic promises of salvation 68 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 peoples2 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 lawbreakers.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; 68Luke 1:73, Acts 3:25, Romans 1:2-4, Gal 3:9-14; 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

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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 1:5:24-26; 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; Ephesians 1:112-13; 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 Spirit,₁₁₉ 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, Eph 1:13-14, Eph 4:30; 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; 1181Corinthians 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; 1Thessalonians 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; Hebrews 1:1-2, 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

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 and is the Son of God.₁₄₂ By this they are released from Satan's domain and enter into God's kingdom

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reign.₁₄₃ And Christians are to exercise the authority of Jesus over the Kingdom of darkenss just as Jesus did. _{143a}

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; 142 Romans 10:8-13, 1 John 4:13-15 1 John 5:5; 143Colossians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:20 143a Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20, Luke 10:17-20, John 20:21

10. The Church: Instrument of the Kingdom

WE BELIEVE in the one,144 holy,145 universal Church.146 All who believe God raised Jesus from the dead are made righteous unto eternal life and/or acknowledge Jesus is the Son of God are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and confess Jesus as Lord unto salvation147 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; 147 Romans 10:8-10, Romans 5:18, Titus 3:4-7, 1 John 4:15, 1 John 5:12-13; 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.
₁₅₁ Matthew 28:19-20; ₁₅₂ 1 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 Christ 155 - 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 judgment 160 and the eternal blessing of the righteous and eternal conscious punishment of the wicked. 161 Finally, God will be all in all 162 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 dwells 165 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; 155Mark13:26; 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

13. The Righteousness of the born-again believer (Additional statement)

WE BELIEVE that God's salvation in Jesus is sufficient to make the believer a new creation and the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus by faith 107 and that the believer's mind is renewed as they establish their identity in the finished work of Christ and not their circumstances, feelings or failures. 108 Effective faith is based on continually acknowledging what God accomplished for the believer in Christ. 109 And growth in godliness is controlled by how well we keep our eyes on the sure Day of Judgment of our works, 110 and know our sins were purged in the single sacrifice of Jesus 2000 years ago. 110

107 Isaiah 53:11, Romans 10:4, 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2 Corinthians 5:12-6:2, Philippians 3:9; 108Romans 6 (v3, 6, 9, 11), Romans 13:10-14, Ephesians 4:14-24, Colossians 3:1-11, James 1:21 1 Peter 2;

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109Philemon 6; 110 Matthew 16:27, 1Corinthians 3:11-17, 2 Corinthians 5:10-11, Philippians 2:12-16, 2 Peter 1:9, 111John 1:29, 2 Peter 1:18-12, Hebrews 1:3, Hebrews 7:27, Hebrews 10:10-18, 1 John 3:5.