

## Foreword

This document is the result of approximately ten years of work. The need for a statement of faith arose shortly after the beginning of the Vineyard movement in 1983. On one hand, we felt obliged to set forth our biblical and historically orthodox beliefs, on the other hand, we wanted to describe the values and priorities that make the Vineyard unique within the context of Evangelicalism.

While many people have worked on this project, special thanks go to John Wimber out of whose calling and vision the Vineyard movement has emerged and matured. Also to John McClure, Senior Pastor of Vineyard Christian Fellowship Newport Beach, California, who has shepherded the process along over this decade, and to Dr. Don Williams, Senior Pastor of Coast Vineyard in La Jolla, California, who rewrote our original statements into the cogent, biblical, kingdom framework that follows.

As evangelicals, the Bible is our final authority for faith and practice. Therefore, the statements that follow reflect our best attempt to understand and live out biblical precepts. Upon further reflection, greater biblical insight, or increased wisdom through experience, these statements could be revised. Until such a time, the Association of Vineyard Churches Board of Directors formally adopts this document as our official Statement of Faith as of the board meeting in November 1994.

We now commend this for use by all our pastors 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.

Berten A. Waggoner  
National Director/President  
Association of Vineyard Churches-USA  
Sugar Land, Texas  
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## 1. God the King and the Holy Trinity

WE BELIEVE that God is the Eternal<sup>1</sup> King<sup>2</sup>. He is an infinite,<sup>3</sup> unchangeable<sup>4</sup> Spirit,<sup>5</sup> perfect<sup>6</sup> in holiness,<sup>7</sup> wisdom,<sup>8</sup> goodness,<sup>9</sup> justice,<sup>10</sup> power<sup>11</sup> and love.<sup>12</sup> From all eternity<sup>13</sup> He exists as the One<sup>14</sup> Living<sup>15</sup> and True<sup>16</sup> God in three persons<sup>17</sup> of one substance,<sup>18</sup> the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,<sup>19</sup> equal in power and glory.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Deuteronomy 33:27; Romans 1:20; <sup>2</sup>Psalms 95:3; Isaiah 43:15; <sup>3</sup>Psalms 147:5; Job 11:7-9; <sup>4</sup>James 1:17; <sup>5</sup>John 4:24; <sup>6</sup>Matthew 5:48; <sup>7</sup>Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 115-16; <sup>8</sup>Psalms 104:24; Proverbs 2:6; Isaiah 28:29; <sup>9</sup>Exodus 33:19; Psalms 63:2; Psalms 31:19; <sup>10</sup>Psalms 33:5; Psalms 89:14; Isaiah 30:18; <sup>11</sup>Exodus 15:6; <sup>12</sup>1 John 4:8; <sup>13</sup>Isaiah 43:13; <sup>14</sup>Isaiah 45:5; 1 Corinthians 8:4; <sup>15</sup>Psalms 42:2; Psalms 84:2; <sup>16</sup>Jeremiah 10:10; <sup>17</sup>John 1:18; John 10:30; John 14:9; John 14:16-17; John 14:26; John 15:26; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; <sup>18</sup>John 1:1; John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 3:17; <sup>19</sup>Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Revelation 1:4; <sup>20</sup>Revelation 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.<sup>21</sup> From His throne,<sup>22</sup> through His Son, His eternal Word,<sup>23</sup> God created,<sup>24</sup> upholds<sup>25</sup> and governs<sup>26</sup> all that exists,<sup>27</sup> the heavenly places,<sup>28</sup> the angelic hosts,<sup>29</sup> the universe,<sup>30</sup> the earth,<sup>31</sup> every living thing<sup>32</sup> and mankind.<sup>33</sup> God created all things very good.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>21</sup>Psalm 45:6; Psalm 145:13; Daniel 4:3; <sup>22</sup>Psalms 93:1-2; <sup>23</sup>John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15-16; Hebrews 1:1-2; <sup>24</sup>Genesis 1:1; Psalms 95:3-5; <sup>25</sup>Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3; <sup>26</sup>Psalms 103:19; Psalms 104:24-29; <sup>27</sup>Psalms 96:4-6; <sup>28</sup>Psalms 89:11; <sup>29</sup>Psalms 103:20-21; <sup>30</sup>Colossians 1:16-17; <sup>31</sup>Psalms 104:5; <sup>32</sup>Psalms 103:22; <sup>33</sup>Psalms 22:28; Psalms 47:8; <sup>34</sup>Genesis 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.<sup>35</sup> He was cast out of God's presence and, as a usurper of God's rule, established a counter-kingdom of darkness<sup>36</sup> and evil on the earth.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>35</sup>Revelation 12:7-9; <sup>36</sup>2 Corinthians 11:14; Colossians 1:13-14; Ephesians 6:12; <sup>37</sup>Mark 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,<sup>38</sup> for relationship with Himself and to govern the earth.<sup>39</sup> Under the temptation of Satan,<sup>40</sup> our original parents fell from grace,<sup>41</sup> bringing sin,<sup>42</sup> sickness<sup>43</sup> and God's judgement of death to the earth.<sup>44</sup> Through the fall, Satan and his demonic hosts gained access to God's good creation.<sup>45</sup> Creation now experiences the consequences and effects of Adam's original sin.<sup>46</sup> Human beings are born in sin,<sup>47</sup> subject to God's judgement of death<sup>48</sup> and captive to Satan's kingdom of darkness.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>38</sup>Genesis 1:26-27; <sup>39</sup>Genesis 1:26; <sup>40</sup>Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9; <sup>41</sup>Genesis 3:8; Romans 1:21; Romans 5:16; <sup>42</sup>Romans 5:12; <sup>43</sup>John 5:14; <sup>44</sup>1 Corinthians 15:22; <sup>45</sup>John 8:44; 1 John 5:19; <sup>46</sup>Romans 8:20-23; <sup>47</sup>Psalms 51:5; <sup>48</sup>Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 2:5; Romans 2:12; Hebrews 9:27; <sup>49</sup>Galatians 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 earth<sup>50</sup> which He continues to uphold by His providence.<sup>51</sup> In order to bring redemption, God established covenants<sup>52</sup> which revealed His grace to sinful people.<sup>53</sup> 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.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>50</sup>Psalms 24:1; Psalm 96:10; <sup>51</sup>Isaiah 40:22; Hebrews 1:3; <sup>52</sup>Romans 9:4; <sup>53</sup>Ephesians 2:12; <sup>54</sup>Genesis 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 Egypt<sup>55</sup> and established His covenant through Moses, revealing His perfect will and our obligation to fulfill it.<sup>56</sup> The law's purpose is to order our fallen race<sup>57</sup> and to make us conscious of our moral responsibility.<sup>58</sup> By the work of God's Spirit,<sup>59</sup> it convicts us of our sin<sup>60</sup> and God's righteous judgement against us<sup>61</sup> and brings us to Christ alone for salvation.<sup>62</sup>

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

WE BELIEVE that when Israel rejected God's rule over her as King,<sup>63</sup> God established the monarchy in Israel<sup>64</sup> and made an unconditional covenant with David,<sup>65</sup> promising that his heir would restore God's kingdom reign over His people as Messiah forever.<sup>66</sup>

<sup>63</sup>1 Samuel 8:6-8; <sup>64</sup>1 Samuel 8:21-22; 1 Samuel 9:15-16; 1 Samuel 10:1; 1 Samuel 10:24;  
<sup>65</sup>2 Samuel 7:11b-16; Psalm 89:34-37; <sup>66</sup>Isaiah 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,<sup>67</sup> God honored His covenants with Israel and His prophetic promises of salvation<sup>68</sup> by sending His Son<sup>69</sup> Jesus, into the world.<sup>70</sup> Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary,<sup>71</sup> as fully God and fully man in one person,<sup>72</sup> He is humanity as God intended us to be.<sup>73</sup> Jesus was anointed as God's Messiah and empowered by the Holy Spirit,<sup>74</sup> inaugurating God's kingdom reign on earth,<sup>75</sup> overpowering the reign of Satan by resisting temptation,<sup>76</sup> preaching the good news of salvation,<sup>77</sup> healing the sick,<sup>78</sup> casting out demons<sup>79</sup> and raising the dead.<sup>80</sup> Gathering His disciples,<sup>81</sup> He reconstituted God's people<sup>82</sup> as His Church<sup>83</sup> to be the instrument of His kingdom.<sup>84</sup> After dying for the sins of the world,<sup>85</sup> Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day,<sup>86</sup> fulfilling the covenant of blessing given to Abraham.<sup>87</sup> In His sinless, perfect life<sup>88</sup> Jesus met the demands of the law<sup>89</sup> and in His atoning death on the cross<sup>90</sup> He took God's judgement for sin<sup>91</sup> which we deserve as law-breakers.<sup>92</sup> By His death on the cross He also disarmed the demonic powers.<sup>93</sup> The covenant with David was fulfilled in Jesus' birth from David's house,<sup>94</sup> His Messianic ministry,<sup>95</sup> His glorious resurrection from the dead,<sup>96</sup> His ascent into heaven and His present rule at the right hand of the Father.<sup>97</sup> As God's Son and David's heir,<sup>98</sup> He is the eternal Messiah-King,<sup>99</sup> advancing God's reign throughout every generation and throughout the whole earth today.<sup>100</sup>

<sup>67</sup>Mark 1:15; Galatians 4:4; <sup>68</sup>Romans 1:2-4; <sup>69</sup>John 1:14; <sup>70</sup>John 1:17-18; <sup>71</sup>Luke 1:30-35, <sup>72</sup>John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-7; <sup>73</sup>Romans 5:19; 1 Corinthians 15:22; 1 Peter 2:22, 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:29; <sup>74</sup>Luke 3:21-22; Luke 4:16-21; <sup>75</sup>Mark 1:14-15; Luke 11:20; Luke 17:20-21; <sup>76</sup>Luke 4:1-13; <sup>77</sup>Luke 4:43; <sup>78</sup>Luke 4:40; <sup>79</sup>Luke 4:41; <sup>80</sup>Luke 7:14-17; <sup>81</sup>Mark 1:16-17; <sup>82</sup>Mark 3:13-15; <sup>83</sup>Matthew 16:18; <sup>84</sup>Luke 9:1-2; Luke 10:1-17; <sup>85</sup>John 1:29; John 6:51; John 4:9-10; <sup>86</sup>Mark 8:31; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5; <sup>87</sup>Galatians 3:13-14; <sup>88</sup>Acts 3:14-15; Hebrews 4:15; <sup>89</sup>Romans 5:18-19; <sup>90</sup>1 Peter 2:24; <sup>91</sup>Galatians 3:13; 2 Corinthians 5:21; <sup>92</sup>Romans 1:18; Romans 1:32; Romans 2:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; <sup>93</sup>Colossians 2:13-15; <sup>94</sup>Matthew 1:1; <sup>95</sup>Luke 1:68-72; Luke 2:10-11; Matthew 9:27; <sup>96</sup>Acts 2:24-28; <sup>97</sup>Acts 2:29-36; <sup>98</sup>Romans 1:1-4; <sup>99</sup>Hebrews 1:1-3; <sup>100</sup>1 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,<sup>101</sup> baptizing believers into the Body of Christ<sup>102</sup> and releasing the gifts of the Spirit to them.<sup>103</sup> The Spirit brings the permanent indwelling presence of God to us<sup>104</sup> for spiritual worship,<sup>105</sup> personal sanctification,<sup>106</sup> building up the Church,<sup>107</sup> gifting us for ministry,<sup>108</sup> and driving back the kingdom of Satan by the evangelization of the world<sup>109</sup> through proclaiming the word of Jesus<sup>110</sup> and doing the works of Jesus.<sup>111</sup>

<sup>101</sup>Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4; <sup>102</sup>1 Corinthians 12:13; <sup>103</sup>1 Corinthians 12:4-7; <sup>104</sup>John 14:16-17;  
<sup>105</sup>Romans 12:1; Ephesians 5:18-20; <sup>106</sup>Romans 8:3-4; <sup>107</sup>1 Corinthians 14:12; 1 Corinthians 14:26; <sup>108</sup>Romans 12:4-6; <sup>109</sup>Luke 11:20; 1 John 3:8b; <sup>110</sup>Ephesians 6:10-20; <sup>111</sup>John 14:12-13;  
Romans 15:18-19; 1 Corinthians 4:20

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ<sup>112</sup> and that He is our abiding Helper,<sup>113</sup> Teacher,<sup>114</sup> and Guide.<sup>115</sup> We believe in the filling or the empowering of the Holy Spirit,<sup>116</sup> often a conscious experience,<sup>117</sup> for ministry today.<sup>118</sup> We believe in the present ministry of the Spirit<sup>119</sup> and in the exercise of all of the biblical gifts of the Spirit.<sup>120</sup> We practice the laying on of hands for the empowering of the Spirit,<sup>121</sup> for healing,<sup>122</sup> and for recognition and empowering of those whom God has

ordained to lead and serve the Church.<sup>123</sup>

<sup>112</sup>Romans 8:9-10; <sup>113</sup>John 16:7; <sup>114</sup>John 14:26; <sup>115</sup>John 16:13-15; Romans 8:14; <sup>116</sup>Luke 24:49; Acts 4:31; <sup>117</sup>Acts 8:18-19; Acts 19:1-2; <sup>118</sup>1 Corinthians 2:4-5; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 6:4-7; <sup>119</sup>Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:15-17; <sup>120</sup>1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 1 Corinthians 14:1; 1 Corinthians 14:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21; <sup>121</sup>Acts 8:14-17; Acts 19:6; <sup>122</sup>Mark 1:41; Luke 6:18b-19; Mark 16:18; <sup>123</sup>Acts 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 Scripture<sup>124</sup> so that the Bible is without error<sup>125</sup> in the original manuscripts. We receive the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments<sup>126</sup> as our final, absolute authority, the only infallible rule of faith<sup>127</sup> and practice.<sup>128</sup>

<sup>124</sup>2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; John 14:26; <sup>125</sup>Psalms 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; <sup>126</sup>Luke 24:44; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Revelation 22:18-19; <sup>127</sup>Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35; <sup>128</sup>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 Satan<sup>129</sup> and that all people are sinners by nature<sup>130</sup> and choice.<sup>131</sup> All people therefore are under God's just judgement.<sup>132</sup> Through the preaching of the Good News of Jesus and the Kingdom of God<sup>133</sup> and the work of the Holy Spirit,<sup>134</sup> God regenerates,<sup>135</sup> justifies,<sup>136</sup> adopts<sup>137</sup> and sanctifies<sup>138</sup> through Jesus by the Spirit<sup>139</sup> all who repent of their sins<sup>140</sup> and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord<sup>141</sup> and Saviour.<sup>142</sup> By this they are released from Satan's domain and enter into God's kingdom reign.<sup>143</sup>

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

## 10. The Church: Instrument of the Kingdom

WE BELIEVE in the one,<sup>144</sup> holy,<sup>145</sup> universal Church.<sup>146</sup> All who repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit<sup>147</sup> and form the living Body of Christ,<sup>148</sup> of which He is the head<sup>149</sup> and of which we are all members.<sup>150</sup>

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

## 11. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church: water baptism<sup>151</sup> and the Lord's Supper.<sup>152</sup> Both are available to all believers.

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

## 12. The Kingdom of God and the Final Judgement

WE BELIEVE that God's kingdom has come in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>153</sup> that it continues to come in the ministry of the Spirit through the Church,<sup>154</sup> and that it will be consummated in the glorious, visible and triumphant appearing of Christ<sup>155</sup> - His return to the earth as King.<sup>156</sup> After Christ returns to reign,<sup>157</sup> He will bring about the final defeat of Satan and all of his minions and works,<sup>158</sup> the resurrection of the dead,<sup>159</sup> the final judgment<sup>160</sup> and the eternal blessing of the righteous and eternal conscious punishment of the wicked.<sup>161</sup> Finally, God will be all in all<sup>162</sup> and His kingdom, His rule and reign,<sup>163</sup> will be fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth,<sup>164</sup> recreated by His mighty power, in which righteousness dwells<sup>165</sup> and in which He will forever be worshipped.<sup>166</sup>

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

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