



STATEMENT OF FAITH

**VINEYARD CHURCHES
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND**

Statement of Faith

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.

We believe . . .

¹ Deuteronomy 33:27; Romans 1:20.

² Psalm 95:3; Isaiah 43:15

³ Psalm 143:5; Job 11:7-9

⁴ James 1:17

⁵ John 4:24

⁶ Matthew 5:48

⁷ Isaiah 9:3; 1 Peter 1:15-16

⁸ Psalm 104:24; Proverbs 2:6; Isaiah 28:29

⁹ Exodus 33:19; Psalm 63:2

¹⁰ Psalm 33:5; Psalm 89:14; 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; Psalm 84:2

¹⁶ Jeremiah 10:10

¹⁷ John 1:18; John 10:30; 1 John 14:9; John 14:16-17; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

¹⁸ John 1:1; John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 3:17

¹⁹ Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Revelation 1:4

²⁰ Revelation 5:13; Ephesians 3:14-21

... 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.

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.

We believe ...

... that God created humankind in his own image, male and female³⁸, for relationship with Himself and to govern the earth³⁹. Under the temptation of

²¹ **Psalm 45:6; Psalm 145:13; Daniel 4:3**

²² **Psalm 93:1-2**

²³ **John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15-16; Hebrews 1:1-2**

²⁴ **Genesis 1:1; Psalm 104:24-29**

²⁵ **Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:3**

²⁶ **Psalm 103:19; 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 22:28; Psalm 47:8**

³⁴ **Genesis 1:31**

³⁵ **Revelation 12:7-9**

³⁶ **2 Corinthians 11:14; Colossians 1:13-14; Ephesians 6:12**

³⁷ **Mark 3:22-26; Ephesians 2:1-2; 1 John 5:19**

³⁸ **Genesis 1:26-27**

³⁹ **Genesis 1:26**

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 judgement of death⁴⁸ and captive to Satan's kingdom of darkness⁴⁹.

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.

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 fulfil it⁵⁶. The law's purpose is to order our fallen race⁵⁷ and to make us conscious of our moral responsibility⁵⁸. By the

⁴⁰ **Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9**

⁴¹ **Genesis 3:8; Romans 1:21; Romans 5:16**

⁴² **Romans 5:12**

⁴³ **John 5:14**

⁴⁴ **1 Corinthians 15:22**

⁴⁵ **John 8:44; 1 John 5:18**

⁴⁶ **Romans 8:20-23**

⁴⁷ **Psalms 51:5**

⁴⁸ **Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 2:5; Romans 2:12; Hebrews 9:27**

⁴⁹ **Galatians 1:3-5; Galatians 4:8-9; Colossians 1:13**

⁵⁰ **Psalms 24:1; Psalm 96:10**

⁵¹ **Isaiah 40:22; Hebrews 1:3**

⁵² **Romans 9:4**

⁵³ **Ephesians 2:12**

⁵⁴ **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**

⁵⁵ **Exodus 15:3-18**

⁵⁶ **Exodus 19:3-6; Exodus 24:3-4; Exodus 24:7; Romans 8:3-4; Romans 8:12-14**

⁵⁷ **Deuteronomy 5:1-3; Deuteronomy 30:15-18; Galatians 3:23-25**

⁵⁸ **Psalms 25:8-10; Romans 7:7**

work of God's Spirit⁵⁹, it convicts us of our sin⁶⁰ and God's righteous judgement against us⁶¹ and brings us to Christ alone for salvation⁶².

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.

We believe ...

... that in the fullness of time⁶⁷, God honoured 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

⁵⁹ **John 15:26; John 16:8-11; 2 Corinthians 3:14-17**

⁶⁰ **Romans 7:13; Galatians 3:19; Galatians 3:21-22**

⁶¹ **Romans 2:1-11**

⁶² **Galatians 3:24; Philippians 3:8-9**

⁶³ **1 Samuel 8:6-8**

⁶⁴ **1 Samuel 8:21-22; 1 Samuel 9:15-16; 1 Samuel 10:1; 1 Samuel 10:24**

⁶⁵ **2 Samuel 7:11-16; Psalm 89:34-37**

⁶⁶ **Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 11:1-5; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Ezekiel 34:23**

⁶⁷ **Mark 1:15; 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; Philippians 2:5-7**

⁷³ **Romans 5:19; 1 Corinthians 15:22; 1 Peter 2:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:29**

⁷⁴ **Luke 3:21-22; Luke 4:16-21**

⁷⁵ **Mark 1:14-15; Luke 11:20; Luke 17:20-21**

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 judgement for sin⁹¹, which we deserve as law-breakers⁹². 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 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

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; Luke 10:1-17**

⁸⁵ **John 1:29; John 6:51; John 4:9-10**

⁸⁶ **Mark 8:31; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5**

⁸⁷ **Galatians 3:13-14**

⁸⁸ **Acts 3:14-15; 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; Romans 1:32; Romans 2:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10**

⁹³ **Colossians 2:13-15**

⁹⁴ **Matthew 1:1**

⁹⁵ **Luke 1:68-72; Luke 2:10-11; Matthew 9:27**

⁹⁶ **Acts 2:24-28**

⁹⁷ **Acts 2:29-36**

Son and David's heir⁹⁸, He is the eternal Messiah-King⁹⁹, advancing God's reign throughout every generation and throughout the whole earth today¹⁰⁰. We believe ...

... that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Church at Pentecost in power¹⁰¹, baptising 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 evangelisation of the world¹⁰⁹ through proclaiming the word of Jesus¹¹⁰ and doing the works of Jesus¹¹¹.

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

⁹⁸ **Romans 1:1-4**

⁹⁹ **Hebrews 1:1-3**

¹⁰⁰ **1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Ephesians 1:19-23; Revelation 5:5**

¹⁰¹ **Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4**

¹⁰² **1 Corinthians 12:13**

¹⁰³ **1 Corinthians 12:4-7**

¹⁰⁴ **John 14:16-17**

¹⁰⁵ **Romans 12:1; 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; Romans 15:18-19; 1 Corinthians 4:20**

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**

today¹¹⁸. We believe in the present ministry of the Spirit¹¹⁹ and in the exercise of all of the biblical gifts of the Spirit¹²⁰. We practise 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.

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.

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 judgement¹³². Through the preaching of the Good News of Jesus and the Kingdom of God¹³³ and the work of the Holy Spirit¹³⁴, God regenerates¹³⁵,

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**

¹²⁴ **2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; John 14:26**

¹²⁵ **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**

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; James 1:22-25**

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**

¹³⁴ **John 16:7-11**

¹³⁵ **John 3:5-8**

justifies¹³⁶, adopts¹³⁷ and sanctifies¹³⁸ through Jesus by the Spirit¹³⁹ all who repent of their sins¹⁴⁰ and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord¹⁴¹ and Saviour¹⁴². By this they are released from Satan's domain and enter into God's kingdom reign¹⁴³.

We believe ...

... in the one¹⁴⁴, holy¹⁴⁵, universal Church¹⁴⁶. All who repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord and Saviour are regenerated by the Holy Spirit¹⁴⁷ and form the living Body of Christ¹⁴⁸, of which He is the head¹⁴⁹ and of which we are all members¹⁵⁰.

We believe ...

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

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

¹³⁶ **1 Peter 1:23**

¹³⁷ **Romans 5:1-2; Romans 5:9**

¹³⁸ **Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6**

¹³⁹ **Ephesians 5:25; Hebrews 13:12; 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**

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**

¹⁵¹ **Matthew 28:18-20**

¹⁵² **1 Corinthians 10:14-17; 11:23-26**

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**

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 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.

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**