

What We Believe

Vineyard stands firmly in the center of orthodox Christian teaching. Out of loyalty to Christ and the Gospel, we have come to a number of convictions concerning the clear teaching of the Bible.

On the spectrum of Christian churches, we strive to incorporate these five elements into our life together:

- ◇ We are orthodox
- ◇ We are evangelical
- ◇ We are empowered evangelicals
- ◇ We value liturgy
- ◇ We pursue social justice

Our Statement of Faith

I confess my affirmation of the Apostles', Nicene, and Chalcedonian Creeds, which I believe to reflect Christian orthodoxy and the clear teaching of Holy Scripture. In addition, as a member of Vineyard Church of Washington, I make the following confession of faith my own:

1. I believe in one living and true God, the Creator and Lord of the heavens and the earth. In the unity of the Godhead, there are three persons, of one substance, equal in power and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
2. I believe that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man, yet one Messiah, the only mediator between God and man. There is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.
3. I believe that Jesus Christ came down from heaven, was incarnated by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life in perfect obedience to the Father, and was crucified for my sins. He suffered, died and was buried, and He rose bodily from the dead on the third day. As the God-man, Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father, interceding for His people. At His first coming, Jesus inaugurated the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God.
4. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower for ministry every believer in Jesus Christ. He is an abiding Helper, Teacher, and Guide. I believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the exercise of all the biblical gifts of the Spirit.
5. I believe that I, along with all men and women, am a sinner by nature and choice and was under condemnation. I am now accounted righteous before God only by the merit of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through faith in Him alone, and not by my own works or deserving.
6. I believe that I have been born again by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. This same Holy Spirit now lives in me, producing faith, holiness, love and power.
7. I believe in the divine inspiration, truthfulness and authority of both the Old and New Testament scriptures in their entirety, without error, in all they affirm, and as the only infallible rule for my faith and practice.

8. I believe that the church is intended by God to be a worshipping community of believers, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His law, exercising the gifts, privileges and discipline invested in the church by His Word and His Holy Spirit, and seeking to extend the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.
9. I believe Christ committed two ordinances to the church: water baptism and the Lord's Supper. I believe water baptism is available to all Christian believers following a clear profession of Christian faith. I believe that the Lord's Supper is open to all believers. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, the Lord's Supper nourishes my soul. It brings to my remembrance the sacrifice of Christ for my sins, my communion with Christ and the church and my obligation to persevere in faith and holiness to the end of my life.
10. I believe in the personal, visible appearing of Christ to earth and the consummation of His Kingdom; in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment and eternal blessing of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked.

Our Vision

Our vision is what we believe God has revealed to us as our purpose:

To build Jesus-brand community that is safe, welcoming, and diverse,

To invite real people to experience the real God, and

To go out to Washington to awaken, heal, and restore our city in the name and power of Jesus.

Our Mission

In order to accomplish this vision, we have committed ourselves to this mission:

To extend the welcome of God's kingdom to all people groups of our city

To encourage people to worship God in relevant and life-giving ways

To equip people to be mature, passionate followers of Jesus, living their daily lives under the power of the Holy Spirit

To express God's heart for people through acts of kindness, outreach, and missions, not only to our city, but throughout the world.

Our Values

Our values are the internal motivations for what we do.

We value *Christ-centeredness*. We desire Jesus--His person, His love, and His power--to show through all that we do.

We value being *Spirit-led*. We want to do the things that Jesus did through the power of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives: preach the gospel, heal the sick, and set people free from the clutches of the enemy. We don't believe that these activities are just for a small group of the "spiritually elite." Everyone gets to play.

We value *prayer*. We seek genuine intimacy with God and growth in our communication with Him through prayer.

We value *integrity*. We seek completely truthful, consistent, and open relationships with God, with others, and with ourselves.

We value *excellence*. Glorifying God means giving Him our best.

We value *simplicity*. We want every expression of ours--whether in speech, music, architecture, or manner--to be non-hyped, natural, and real.

We value being *culturally relevant*. We want to use music, terminology, and outreach methods that meet the current needs of our community.

We value *leadership*. We approach leadership as a team effort with our pastors operating in authority as visionaries and goal-setters.

We value *generosity*. We are committed to freely giving away all that we have freely received from God.

We value *silence, solitude, and prayer*. We want to make room in our lives to hear God's voice and spend time in communion with Him.

We value *authentic faith*. We want to express our faith by living out what we believe every day of the week, not just Sundays.

We value *servicing the poor*. We want to love and serve the poor, oppressed, needy, and broken in our city.

Our Priorities

Our priorities give visible form to our values. They represent where we place our time, energy, and money.

Worship. Worship is the first priority of the church. Worship involves the regular celebration of God's glory and relies on clear teaching from His Word, the Bible.

Outreach. Evangelism means people are led from the darkness of their sin into the light of the gospel of Jesus.

Community. Commonly called "fellowship," community means "shared life." It provides a safe and welcoming place for people to belong.

Small Groups. In small groups, people get connected with others and experience worship, teaching, and the ministry of prayer.

Children. We teach children a fun and loving atmosphere that Jesus is their very best friend.

The Poor. We seek to identify and commit people, time, and resources to relieve the suffering of the poor.