



STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE:

A. There is only one true God who is the eternal King, Creator and Redeemer of all that is. He is perfectly holy, just, loving and truthful. He has revealed Himself to be eternally self-existent, one essence in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

B. The Bible is the inspired, authoritative, and only infallible word of God.

C. Humankind was created in the image of God to know and enjoy Him, yet we willfully rejected the Lordship and glory of God for which we were intended. Because of this, sickness, death and judgment entered the world and now creation experiences the effects and consequences of sin.

D. The Lord Jesus Christ, the one and only Son of God, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin, Mary, and is God's Anointed One, empowered by the Holy Spirit to inaugurate God's Kingdom on earth. He was crucified for our sins, died, was buried, resurrected and ascended into heaven, and is now alive today, in the presence of God the Father and in His people. He is fully God and fully human.

E. We are saved by God's grace, through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Anyone can be restored to fellowship with God through repentance, believing and receiving Jesus as their Savior and Lord. The Holy Spirit, convicts, regenerates, justifies, and adopts us as we enter the Kingdom of God as His sons and daughters.

F. In the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live holy and minister super-naturally. The baptism of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 1:4-8 and 2:4 is poured out on believers that they might have power to be witnesses.

G. The victorious redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides freedom from the power of the enemy: sin, lies, sickness and torment.

H. The Church is the visible Body and Bride of Christ on earth. Jesus gave His Church the sacraments of the bread and the cup, baptism, generous giving, and marriage. The Church exists to carry the nature of Jesus and further advance His Kingdom by: preaching and living out the good news of God's love; transforming our local regions;



undoing the works of the enemy; teaching and discipling the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

I. In the ever-increasing government of God and the impending return of Jesus for His Church. Every human being must choose whether he or she will dwell with God in eternity *or* apart from Him in eternal death. There will be a resurrection of the lost and the saved, one to everlasting death *and* the other to the everlasting life.

J. In biological sex, which according to the Scriptures and natural law, is assigned by God at the gestation of each human person. The Bible recognizes only two human sexes: male and female.¹ Biological sex is inseparable from the image of God in humanity (Genesis 1:27) and a person may not alter their own sex on the basis of desire, preference or dysphoria. Jesus affirmed this truth as a primary teaching of Scripture when He reiterated the formula of Genesis, "... have you not read that the One who made them at the beginning made them male and female?..." (Matthew 19:4)

K. In the sanctity of marriage, as defined in the Scriptures, in that God created woman as the Kingdom complement to man, to be joined in covenantal marriage (Genesis 2). The Scriptures affirm only two sexual lifestyles: sacramental marriage limited to a lifelong union between a man and a woman and sacred celibacy.² All other purported sexual identities, relationships and activities—including but not limited to extramarital sex, same sex unions, unbiblical divorce and unbiblical marriage—are sinful deviations from the design of God for humanity. (1 Corinthians 6 & 7, Romans 1, Genesis 2)

L. Vintage City Church is a body of believers that carefully aligns with the convictions and beliefs of the Early Church. Therefore, all of the aforementioned truths are affirmed in accordance with the Scriptures and the first seven, universal councils of the Church.³



EXPLANATORY NOTES:

1. Jesus acknowledges the existence of medical crises which may disorder a person's sexual function from birth, "... there are those who have been born eunuchs..." (Matthew 19:12). Therefore, we admit the occurrence of rare sexual dysfunctions (atypical chromosomes, dual genitalia) which prevent the identification of a child within a singular biological sex. Like all disabilities, these sexual dysfunctions are a tragic, unsought consequence of fallen creation *and* are never the result of human preference or alteration. In such cases, a child's parents—as their primary spiritual authority—are empowered to steward the situation with compassion, Biblical restraint and steadfast reliance upon the voice of the Lord in prayer.

2. The Christian Scriptures forbid the religious and legal act of divorce and remarriage, excluding the specific exceptions given by the Lord Jesus and the Apostle Paul. These include acts of sexual unfaithfulness and abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (Matthew 5:32, Matthew 19:9, 1 Corinthians 7:15). Divorce is impermissible in all other cases, and only the harmed spousal party is permitted to remarry in the instance of either exception. Godly counsel for spousal separation in situations of physical violence and family danger is governed uniquely by the Scriptures (Ephesians 5:29, Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:19, 1 Corinthians 7:10–11) and must be considered as a distinct issue from divorce and remarriage. In these circumstances, the immediate safety of the victimized spouse and children is to be sought.

3. Seven Ecumenical Councils: First Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.), First Council of Constantinople (381 A.D.) Council of Ephesus (431 A.D.), Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.), Second Council of Constantinople (553 A.D.), Third Council of Constantinople (680-681 A.D.), Second Council of Nicaea (787 A.D.) ; Two Significant Councils: Council of Jerusalem (48-50 A.D.), Third Council of Carthage (397 A.D.)