

**WHO ARE YOU GUYS ANY
WAY? (The Vineyard
Movement)**

by

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This is the title of an essay describing the origin of the "Vineyard" movement, the individuals behind the movement, and the characteristic tenets and practices of this particular group.

In 1974 the Lord reportedly led Kenn and Joanie Gulliksen to leave Costa Mesa, California, where they had formerly attended Calvary Chapel, to begin another kind of ministry in Los Angeles. This new kind of ministry was one that had been on their hearts for years. They met as a small Bible study group in the home of Chuck Girard (a lead singer for Love Song). From this initial group other study groups were formed including one in Beverly Hills. Then reportedly by prophetic words the name "vineyard" was applied to these groups comprised of musicians, actors, business people and others who were hungry to know and experience God.

These meetings with their emphasis on worship, relationships, healing, training, and giving attracted thousands of individuals who didn't find themselves "at home" in conventional churches and had lost their commitment to institutional churches. These were now meeting in gyms, on

beaches, and in private homes.

In 1982 John Wimber and several other pastors led their churches to fellowship with the "Vineyard." John Wimber was then led to become the pastor of these pastors. In the same year George Esser, Jack DeBliek, and Orval Deboer were led to establish a similar group in Sarnia, California which began the first phase of "church planting."

On January 1, 1990 the Sarnia group became known as "a Vineyard" and from that time the movement has grown extensively numbering around 500 in North America and 1,000 worldwide by January of 1994.

The emphasis in the Vineyard's method of worship is meeting together in small groups of 8 - 15 and becoming known and accountable to each other. The idea is that "worship leads to fellowship, and the goal of fellowship is wholeness." Healing the sick, lame, and hurting is brought about by extending the ministry of Jesus with signs and wonders and preaching of the gospel.

According to the "Vineyard" statement of faith adherents believe that the repentant sinner is baptized by the Holy Spirit at conversion, but subsequent to regeneration the seeking believer is baptized by the Lord Jesus with the Holy Spirit resulting in power for service. Akin to this, the Vineyard group believes in the "laying on of hands for the empowering of the Holy Spirit, for receiving gifts of the

Spirit, for healing... and empowering those whom God has ordained to lead..."

The "Vineyard" group also possesses and promotes a set of spiritual values in which they seek to experience the present fulfillment of God's Kingdom through the Holy Spirit's powerful presence and ministry of His gifts to heal and to work wonders. This group also values being what they call "culture-current." This value is reflected in their popular style worship music and also in their seeking "to develop an atmosphere of ease by speaking, acting, and dressing in ways in which the rock generation can respond positively." A valued concept also is to have fun while doing the ministry of Christ.

The "Vineyard" group has a goal of planting 10,000 "vineyards" around the world in our generation. Their philosophy of ministry involves a "show and tell" method of "on the Job" training in which trainees are involved "in doing ministry functions."

Leadership is committed to those who "demonstrate the fullness of the Holy Spirit, of faith, and of wisdom." A willingness to be a "team player" and help other pastoral associates to succeed is a necessary requirement as well.

The "Vineyard" group may also be identified by other characteristics. In addition to their contemporary, relaxed and informal approach to music and worship, they enjoy hanging around with one another and relating to one another rather than traditional meetings with structured services. Their personal preferences over the Scriptures is reflected in the words of one

of their own - "we place a higher priority on having fun than doing things right."