

A Gloss on the Pledge of Allegiance
by Ronald W. Kirk

Here is a summary of the explanation we used to teach our school students...

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE...

I promise to be a friend.

TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA...

The flag represents the people. They are my neighbors. By faith I love them as I love myself.

AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS...

The United States is a unique, diverse set of federal relationships. Some are informal. Some form our civil government. Decentralized, limited constitutional authority in the hands of those who truly represent their constituents is a blessing to all decent people.

ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE...

America's Founders sought to forge a new, united people, with the strength necessary to protect our peculiar blessings from foreign attack and internal subversion. We share a common end:

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!

The Founders never intended this union to compromise individual liberty of faith, conscience and enterprise. They never intended government regulation of the details of American life. Indeed, they intended with a limited national government and sturdy, godly, local self-government to protect, with equal justice, the life,

liberty and property of all. Together, securing our neighbors' welfare through justice, we protect our own.

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