

The poem below is said to have been written by a 15 year old student in Arizona and was making the e-mail rounds back in 2002. Perhaps we can cut a 15 year old student a little bit of slack, particularly if he or she had not yet studied civics, but I felt this poem demonstrated such a poor understanding of one of the most important principles given to us by our founding fathers -- the separation of church and state -- that I wrote my own poem in response, entitled "[The Separation of Church and State](http://schrepfer.com/newpledge.html)". Jeff Schrepfer - See <http://schrepfer.com/newpledge.html>

The New Pledge of Allegiance

Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule

For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If Scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.

And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green,
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.

The law is specific, the law is precise.
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall
Might offend someone with no faith at all.

In silence alone we must meditate,
God's name is prohibited by the state.

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.

They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.

It's "inappropriate" to teach right from wrong,
We're taught that such "judgments" do not belong.

We can get our condoms and birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.

But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.

So, Lord, this silent plea I make:
Should I be shot; My soul please take!

Amen

The Separation of Church and State

Now I sit me down in school
Where organized prayer's against the rule

For this great nation, under law
Its founders, a great vision they saw

Though most were Christian, they all knew
The importance of religious freedom too

And so they erected a great wall
To guarantee freedom of thought for all

For the separation of church and state
Is partly what makes this nation great

It's not as if the founders thought
That religion itself should not be taught

And it's not as if they meant to say
That people should not be allowed to pray

But they knew there should be a separate place
Where all could learn without saying grace

That teachers should teach us to read and write
While preachers and parents extol God's might

Some people think kids have gotten worse
Because teachers don't make them say enough verse

What they don't understand is the reason they're bad
Is the lack of discipline from mom and dad

But the puzzling thing is all this fuss
Over something that was taught to each one of us

Perhaps those who don't understand the rule
Should have prayed less and studied more in school

-- Jeff Schrepfer --