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### RJW Scholarship

Nobody intends to ruin someone else's life but that can happen when you make bad decisions. Drinking and driving causes hundreds of deaths in the USA each year. Each one of the people who have died as a result of bad decisions was the son or daughter, brother or sister, or maybe the mother or father of someone. They were important people and they were loved and now they are no longer here to do what they were put on earth to do. They leave "unfinished business". People are more inclined to make impulsive or bad decisions during their teenage years, especially if they were never warned against it. I can avoid taking drugs or drinking alcohol by having knowledge of what it does to me. If someone is killed while they are young, especially through a car accident when someone had too much alcohol, it is harder to bear with than other types of deaths. This is because it was caused completely by someone being stupid and selfish and only thinking of him or herself. Children tend to not think ahead. They say, "Everyone is doing it, a drink or two won't hurt." They do not realize that they can kill someone by doing this. When kids smoke, they only do it because others are doing it or they want to look cool, and do not realize they could die of lung cancer, and that smoking does not taste good anyway. The part of our brain that control pleasure is much more developed than the reasonable part at adolescence. Parents are normally the ones against smoking and alcohol, but not the teenagers. It is really tragic when it is innocent people who are the victims of drunk driving accidents, not just the drunk drivers themselves. Innocent people should not die because someone was drinking. People should learn to love their

neighbor as themselves, so they will not have a negative effect on themselves (drinking) and other people (drunk driving). Teenagers should work to find trustworthy friends so they will never feel pressured to make bad choices when they are hanging out with their friends. It also really helps to have a close and supportive family. Sometimes that family is the one that you were born into, but sometimes you have to seek and find another family to help you make good choices and decisions. Teenagers should try to have an open relationship with their family or the families of their friends, so they can get help, support and advice from them. If they do not, they may try to seek help from other sources, and that is what might get them into trouble. We all have to remember that making bad decisions can cause pain and ruin people's lives even if we did not intend to do that. The consequences of bad decisions can last forever.

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