The AC Phoenix

Dear Ms K,

Mv



Answer Ms. K, My Answer

I have lots of friends. Some are married and others have been

married but now divorced. I really want to get married but I'm afraid I might end up the same way. We have been dating three years but we have known each other for seven years. He really wants to tie the knot. He is a very nice guy, has a good job and enjoys going to church. We both are in our late 30's. Either one has never been married, of course no children. I just want to make sure that this will last. Ms K, what is your answer about this? I won't sign my name because my friends just might figure it's me.

Still Holding Out

Dear Holding Out,

I'm afraid you will be holding out from now on if you are comparing yourself with others. Ms K or anyone else cannot tell you what to do with your future. I will tell you that no marriage is guaranteed for anyone. You will have to try and make the best of anything you encounter. I'm sure your friends who didn't succeed in their marriage did not know or intend for it to end as it did. We have to try for ourselves and not base our lives on what we want to do with what others are doing. As we know, marriage is a commitment. We know it takes two to make the marriage successful. I feel like we have to work very hard with anything we do in life. Failure happens when we never try. I would strongly suggest that you pray over this and ask God to lead and guide you. By all means, talk with your Pastor.

For all readers, have a safe and Blessed Holiday Season and by all means include your family and loved ones. I must say again thanks for your prayers for me during my illness due to the accident. Please continue to pray for me during my recovery. Thanks again.

Write to: Ms. K. My Answer P.O. Box 16144 Winston-Salem, NC 27115-6144





The City Must Fight Back Baltimore Times

When a cowardly arsonist set a fire to the Dawson home on East Preston Street and killed a mother, her five children and recently her husband, who succumbed to his injuries, was an act of terrorism more threatening than anything that Iraq or North Korea can do and struck the hearts and minds of Baltimoreans. The Dawson family had objected to drug dealers stashing their poison on their property and they wanted the drug dealers to more away from their home.

The Dawson family did what the police and others charged with suppressing crime suggested they do. They called frequently when they saw illegal activity in their block. In return for their proper actions, they were attacked by thugs who firebombed the house twice. The drug dealers acted with callousness and an apparent disregard for the police and prosecutors who are supposed to deter them. They acted as if they owned the block and the Dawson family were the group of intruders.

A suspect is in custody and others may yet be arrested for the atrocity. Many in the community have expressed grief and anger and elected officials and clergy have tried to rally the citizens of this city to see the Dawson family as martyrs who should inspire community opposition to the drug trade that is crippling many neighborhoods.

The drug gangs have crossed a line from which they will not retreat. They only grow more brazen as law-abiding citizens retreat from their neighborhood sidewalks and allow drug pushers and their customers, many of whom are suburbanites who do not want drug dealing on the street corners of their neighborhoods, to control the streets.

There are more law-abiding residents of this city than there are violent thugs. The decent people of Baltimore must take a stand and this involves risk, but so does doing nothing because unrestrained thugs will shoot up neighborhoods wounding and killing unintended targets. Passivity will not solve the problem. The only way that the streets of the city will become safer is for government and citizens to stand together and show determination to fight the scourge of drug dealing and the violence it spawns.

The Dawson family took a stand and they paid the ultimate price. If their fellow Baltimoreans stand united in the cause for which they sacrificed, their deaths will not be in vain. The outrage about the murder of this courageous family must turn into determination to carry on their fight.