

“Total Eclipse of the Heart” by Bonnie Tyler

A recent survey has indicated that this is the #1 shower song of all time! Why? This song *really* connects with most of us because we’ve experienced a terribly broken heart.

The song has three main parts:

1. It tells us how she singer feels.
2. It tells us what her solution is: a boy.
3. It tells us that her solution fails: she’s fallen apart, with a total eclipse of the heart.

So, let’s look at these three parts, and then I’ll finish by suggesting the song has a better solution.

A. What does having a broken heart feel like?

I get a little bit:

- lonely
- tired
- nervous
- terrified
- restless
- helpless
- angry
- falls apart

Ecclesiastes 3:11, Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.

We see the here and now, without realizing God has eternity in mind. We see quick fixes to our hurt, broken hearts. God’s desire is to mend our hearts for eternity.

B. What is the typical solution we pursue when our heart is broken?

Her solution:

- need you tonight
- need you more than ever

- need you to hold me tight
- we'll be holding on forever
- we'll never be wrong
- we can take it to the end of the line

John 4:13-18 (NLT)

¹³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again.

¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

¹⁵ "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

¹⁶ "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

¹⁷ "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband—

¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

We have the romantic notion that all my hurts and hopes and dreams and desires can be fulfilled by another person. Jesus was trying to help this woman understand the way she was trying to quench her thirst was harmful to her. There was a better way. She could never thirst again! What she wanted could bubble up within her, if she drank what Jesus was offering.

C. Why is the "typical solution" actually the problem?

her solution IS the problem:

- Your love is like a shadow on me all of the time
- I don't know what to do and I'm always in the dark
- We're living in a powder keg and giving off sparks
- (In spite of this...) I really need you tonight
- Once upon a time I was falling in love ("love is for fairy tales")
- But now I'm only falling apart
- There's nothing I can do ... nothing I can say
- A total eclipse of the heart

The second verse of this song is seldom heard ... the song is 7 minutes long, too long for radio play ... so they shorten the song on the radio by removing this second verse, but it highlights 4 awesome lies we believe about relationships:

- I know you'll never be the boy you always wanted to be.
 - The Lie: "you're so awesome, you sacrifice your future for me."

- I know you'll always be the only boy who wanted me the way that I am.
 - The Lie: “you’re so awesome, no one else understands me.”
- I know there's no one in the universe as magical and wondrous as you.
 - The Lie: “you’re so awesome, nobody compares with you!”
- I know there's nothing any better, there's nothing that I just wouldn't do.
 - The Lie: “you’re so awesome, I can’t say ‘no.’”

Ecclesiastes 3:11, Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.

The problem: people try to fill the human heart with temporary things (people, things, accomplishments) instead of things that last for eternity (Christ, faith, changed-life).

D. The ultimate solution to a broken heart is repentance.

There IS a solution in the song:

- Turn around. [Rory Dodd is the backing singer for this phrase.]
- Not to him, but to Him!
- She’s doing a “360” when she needs to do a “180.”

2 Corinthians 7:10, For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There’s no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.

Her heartache isn’t helping her. It only drives her back into a relationship that isn’t working. Allow your heartache to clean out the sin in your life ... to bring purity to your relationships ... to drive to God who can *really* fill that empty spot within.

A closing prayer ... “Dear God, You have placed eternity within our hearts, a longing for what is real and lasting. We so easily run to the temporary solution. Give us the wisdom to seek what lasts. Help us to know Jesus and to drink from Him, and so quench that thirst that boils deep within us all. In Jesus’ name, amen.”