

“How Do I Live”, by Leanne Rimes

Let me ask you straight up, girls ... do you need a man to be happy? There's a couple ways to answer this:

-- Yea, I admit it. I need a man in my life to be happy. What can I say? I don't want to be lonely.

-- Nope. "I am woman, hear me roar ..." I'd enjoy a guy in my life; but *need* one to be happy. No.

-- Depends on the guy. Some guys would make me miserable; been there, done that, bought the t-shirt.

Of course, we could reverse it and ask the guys if we wanted to.

So, really, what do you NEED to be happy in life? Leanne Rimes needs a guy, bigtime. Listen to a bit of her song, "How Do I Live" ... [play snippet one]

How do I get through one night without you?

If I had to live without you

What kind of life would that be?

Oh, I, I need you in my arms, need you to hold

You're my world, my heart, my soul and if you ever leave

Baby you would take away everything good in my life

And tell me now

How do I live without you? I want to know

How do I breathe without you if you ever go?

How do I ever, ever survive?

How do I, how do I, oh, how do I live?

It hope she's employing a fair amount of hyperbole here. Hyperbole is the use of exaggeration as a rhetorical device or figure of speech. If not, she's in trouble, BIG trouble, if he leaves her:

She won't be able to make it through the night.

She'd lose "everything good in her life".

She couldn't breathe.

She couldn't even survive!

When I had a crush on Carol Putney in High School, I thought like that. That was right after my crush on Terri Swanson, when I felt the same way. And just before my crush on Nina Anishko, my best friend's sister. Be careful not to carry your immature dependencies from your teenager years into your adult relationships ... not good.

It's not healthy in a relationship to be dependent on another person for your *complete* happiness, for the exact reason brought up in this song ... if that person leaves, dies, or whatever ... you're just done for. Relationships, especially the marriage relationship, is meant to be enjoyable, and mutually fulfilling ... but it's NOT intended to make your life complete and full. That's what your relationship with Jesus is for: John 10:10, Jesus said, "... my purpose in coming is to give people a full and meaningful life."

The beauty of a relationship with Jesus is that he's promised to never leave or forsake us. The song is mute in terms of our Christian life ... we never have to worry about living without Jesus.

But, Jesus did actually deal with the sense of abandonment and despair that this song envisions. As his own earthly ministry was coming to an end He took time to prepare His followers for His departure.

John 13:33-38 (NLT)

³³ Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going.

³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.

³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

When separation comes, sometimes we see the best in people: more love.

³⁶ Simon Peter asked, "Lord, where are you going?" And Jesus replied, "You can't go with me now, but you will follow me later."

³⁷ "But why can't I come now, Lord?" he asked. "I'm ready to die for you."

³⁸ Jesus answered, “Die for me? I tell you the truth, Peter—before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.

When separation comes, sometimes we see the worst in people: pride, denial and retreat.

John 14:1-18 (NLT)

¹ “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

When separation comes, trusting God is the antidote for a troubled heart.

² There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am ... ¹⁸
No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

The final solution to separation is being reunited.

One of the verses of Leanne Rime’s song lists a few things she’s terribly afraid she’ll lose ... sunshine, love, her whole world, and everything that seems real to her. Actually, the final solution for separation (Heaven) also answers each of her concerns ... [play snippet 2].

Without you there'd be no sun in my sky

There would be no love in my life

There'd be no world left for me

And I, baby, I don't know what I would do

I'd be lost if I lost you, if you ever leave

Baby, you would take away everything real in my life

And tell me now ...

No need for the Sun there. Revelation 22:5, “And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.”

No world needed there. 1 John 2:17, "And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever."

No restraint on pure love there. 1 Corinthians 13:13, "So these three things continue forever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love."

Finally, everything there will be real. 2 Corinthians 4:18, "We set our eyes not on what we see but on what we cannot see. What we see will last only a short time, but what we cannot see will last forever."

MAIN POINT: Jesus recognizes that each of us will experience painful separation during our lives ... and He offers Himself as the ultimate solution.

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, we ask You to help us trust You more deeply, especially during times of hurt or separation. Help us to love others more deeply too; and also hope in life eternal and a beautiful reunion that lasts forever. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

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And I, baby, I don't know what I would do

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Baby, you would take away everything real in my life

And tell me now

How do I live without you? I want to know

How do I breathe without you if you ever go?

How do I ever, ever survive?

How do I, how do I, oh, how do I live?

Please, tell me, baby

How do I go on if you ever leave?

Baby, you would take away everything, I need you with me

Baby, don't you know that you're everything good in my life?

And tell me now

How do I live without you? I want to know

How do I breathe without you if you ever go

How do I ever, ever survive?

How do I, how do I, oh, how do I live?

How do I live without you?

How do I live without you, baby?

How do I live?