

“How Much Do I Owe God?”

Based on Romans 13:7-8 (NIV)
Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

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† The “old” rule in paying our financial debts: “Of your income, give 10 percent to the church & charities, save 10 percent, and live on the remaining 80 percent.”

Romans 13:7 - Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

† The Apostle Paul is dealing with more than monetary debts.

† Paul says that if I have any type of debt, I am to pay it off.

Romans 13:8 - Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

† Paul teaches that love is an obligation as real as taxation and personal debts.

† I am permanently in debt to God through Christ for the love God has lavished on me.

† The only way I can even begin to repay this debt is by loving others.

Romans 13:8b - ... for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

† There is a famous saying by St. Augustine:
“Love God -- and do what you like.”

† If I genuinely love God, then I will want to do what honors God most.

† I am to keep paying “the continuing debt to love one another” to those I know and also “unknown” others I meet.

Applying Today’s Message to My Life:

† How much debt do I have right now:
- Monetary?

- To God?

† How am I repaying my monetary debt?

† How am I repaying my debt to God?

- Is it how God would want or what I want?

† How can I more fully work at repaying my debt to God by loving others this week? Today?