

**Bhaktyaloka**

**By**

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11

# Six Qualities that Enhance Bhakti

12. Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in  
the footsteps of the previous  
ācāryas

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

14. One should have firm determination to attain one's goal

Firm determination for one's attachment is described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 12.31) as follows:

kintu anurāgī lokera svabhāva eka haya  
iṣṭa nā pāile nija prāṇa se chāḍaya

“Still, isn't it the nature of an attached man to give up his life if he does not attain his desired object?”

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

15. One should teach others by their own good example

Teaching others by one's good example is described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 12.117) as follows:

tumi bhāla kariyācha, śikhāha anyere  
ei-mata bhāla karma seho yena kare

The Lord would say, "You have done well. Please teach this to others  
so that they may act in the same way."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

16. Sincere endeavor to perform D.S

The need for care and eagerness in the execution of devotional service is described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 24.171) as follows:

yatnāgraha vinā bhakti nā janmāya preme

"Without sincere endeavor in devotional service, one cannot attain love of Godhead."

17. Give up the association of dry logicians

The need for giving up the association of logicians is described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 12.183) as follows:

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

tār̥kika-śṛgāla-saṅge bheu-bheu kari  
sei mukhe ebe sadā kahi 'kṛṣṇa' 'hari

"In the association of the jackals known as logicians, I simply  
continued to bark a resounding 'bheu bheu.' Now, from the same  
mouth I am chanting the holy names 'Kṛṣṇa' and 'Hari.'"

18. Para dukhā dukhī

An example of unhappiness by seeing the distress of others is given in  
the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 15.162-163) as follows:

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

jīvera duḥkha dekhi' mora hṛdaya bidare  
sarva-jīvera pāpa prabhu deha' mora śire  
jīvera pāpa lañā muñi karoṅ naraka bhoga  
sakala jīvera, prabhu, ghucāha bhava-roga

"My Lord, my heart breaks to see the sufferings of all the conditioned souls; therefore I request You to transfer the karma of their sinful lives upon my head. My dear Lord, let me suffer perpetually in a hellish condition, accepting all the sinful reactions of all living entities. Please finish their diseased material life."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

### 19. Cultivating purity

The need for a pure heart is described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 15.274) as follows:

sahaje nirmala ei 'brāhmaṇa'-hṛdaya  
kṛṣṇera vasite ei yogya-sthāna haya

"The heart of a brāhmaṇa is by nature very clean; therefore it is a proper place for Kṛṣṇa to sit."

### 20. Giving up envy

One must give up envy, or the distress arising from seeing other's prosperity.



## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

In the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 15.275) this is described as follows:

'mātsarya'-caṇḍāla kene ihān vasāile  
parama pavitra sthāna apavitra kaile

"Why have you allowed the caṇḍāla of jealousy to sit here also? In this way you have contaminated a most purified place, your heart."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

2). one must be a staunch follower RCM

One must be a staunch follower of Lord Caitanya.

As described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 16.148):

(prabhu lāgi' dharma-karma chāḍe bhakta-gaṇa)  
bhakta-dharma-hāni prabhura nā haya sahana

“All the devotees would abandon all kinds of duties for Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu's sake, yet the Lord did not like the devotees' giving up their promised duties.”

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

22. One should be willing to give up one's material attachments

The need to completely abandon faults is described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 20.91) as follows:

se kene rākhibe tomāra śeṣa viṣaya-bhoga  
roga khaṇḍi' sad-vaidya nā rākhe śeṣa roga

“Why should Kṛṣṇa allow you to maintain a last bit of material attachment? After vanquishing a disease, a good physician does not allow any of the disease to remain.”

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

23. Firm faith in the conclusions about śuddha bhakti

The devotee's faith in the conclusions of devotional service is described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 22.62) as follows:

'śraddhā'-śabde—viśvāsa kahe sudṛḍha niścaya  
kṛṣṇe bhakti kaile sarva-karma kṛta haya

"Śraddhā is confident, firm faith that by rendering transcendental loving service to Kṛṣṇa one automatically performs all subsidiary activities. Such faith is favorable to the discharge of devotional service."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

24. Effort to surrender fully to Kṛṣṇa.

The need for total surrender is described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 22.102) as follows:

śaraṇa lañā kare kṛṣṇe ātma-samarpaṇa  
kṛṣṇa tāre kare tat-kāle ātma-sama

"When a devotee thus fully surrenders unto Kṛṣṇa's lotus feet, Kṛṣṇa accepts him as one of His confidential associates."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

25. Giving up atheistic philosophies with repentance

One must give up atheistic philosophies with repentance as described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Madhya 25.43):

paramārtha-vicāra gela, kari mātra 'vāda'  
kāhān mukti pāba, kāhān kṛṣṇera prasāda

"The atheists, headed by the Māyāvādī philosophers, do not care for liberation or Kṛṣṇa's mercy. They simply continue to put forward false arguments and countertheories to atheistic philosophy, not considering or engaging in spiritual matters."

# Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

26. Being neutral

A devotee should always be neutral.

As described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya 3.23):

'nirapekṣa' nahile 'dharma' nā yāya rakṣaṇe

"Without being neutral one cannot protect religious principles."

27. Beware of Vaiṣṇava nindā

The devotee should be afraid of insulting other Vaisnavas.

# Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

As stated in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya 3.164):

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mahāntera apamāna ye deśa-grāme haya  
eka janāra doṣe saba deśa ujādaya

"Wherever an advanced devotee is insulted, for one man's fault the entire town or place is afflicted."

27. Practising forgiveness & mercy

The devotees' duty is to practice forgiveness and show mercy.



## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

As stated in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya 3.213, 237) and the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Ādi-khaṇḍa 13.182):

bhakta-svabhāva,-ajña-doṣa kṣamā kare  
dīne dayā kare,-ei sādhu-svabhāva haya  
prabhu bole,-vipra saba danta parihari'  
bhaja giyā kṛṣṇa, sarvabhūte dayā kari'

"A characteristic of a pure devotee is that he excuses any offense by an ignorant rascal. It is a characteristic of all saintly persons to be kind toward the poor and fallen. The Lord said, 'O brāhmaṇa! Give up all pride and serve Kṛṣṇa by showing mercy to all.'"

# Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

28. Preach through your example

The devotee's duty is to preach by setting a good example.

As explained in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya 4.103):

'ācāra', 'pracāra',—nāmera karaha 'dui' kārya  
tumi—sarva-guru, tumi jagatera ārya

"You simultaneously perform both duties in relation to the holy name  
by your personal behavior and by your preaching. Therefore you are  
the spiritual master of the entire world, for you are the most advanced  
devotee in the world."

# Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

29. Follow Vaiṣṇava etiquette

The devotee's duty is to follow Vaiṣṇava etiquette.

As stated in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya 4.130):

tathāpi bhakta-svabhāva—maryādā-rakṣaṇa  
maryādā-pālana haya sādharma bhūṣaṇa

"It is the characteristic of a devotee to observe and protect the Vaiṣṇava etiquette. Maintenance of the Vaisnava etiquette is the ornament of a devotee."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

30. Consider a Vaiṣṇava's body to be spiritual

One should consider a Vaiṣṇava's body spiritual.

In the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya 4.191) it is said:

prabhu kahe,— "vaiṣṇava-deha 'prākṛta' kabhu naya  
'aprākṛta' deha bhaktera 'cid-ānanda-maya'"

Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu said, "The body of a devotee is never material. It is considered to be transcendental, full of spiritual bliss."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

31. At some point one should detach oneself from material responsibilities & perform worship in the association of Vaiṣṇaves

There is a need for worshiping Kṛṣṇa in a solitary place after completing one's activities of household life and sense gratification.

In the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya 4.214-216) it is described:

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

ka-vatsara rūpa-gosañira gaḍe vilamba haila  
kuṭumbera 'sthiti'-artha vibhāga kari' dila  
gaḍe ye artha chila, tāhā ānāilā  
kuṭumba-brāhmaṇa-devālaye bāñṭi' dilā  
saba manaḥ-kathā gosāñi kari' nirvāhaṇa  
niścinta hañā śighra āilā vṛndāvana

"Śrīla Rūpa Gosvāmī was delayed in Bengal for a year because he was dividing  
his money among his relatives to situate them in their proper positions. He  
collected whatever money he had accumulated in Bengal and divided it  
among his relatives, the brāhmaṇas, and the temples. Thus after finishing all  
the tasks he had on his mind, he returned to Vṛndāvana fully satisfied."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

32. Give up desire for fame.

The devotee must give up the desire for fame.

As stated in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya 5.78):

mahānubhavera ei sahaja 'svabhāva' haya  
āpanāra guṇa nāhi āpane kahaya

"This is a natural characteristic of those advanced in devotional service. They do not personally speak of their own good qualities."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

३३. No attachment to worldly poetry

A devotee should have no faith in worldly poetry.

As described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya 5.107):

grāmya-kavira kavitva śunite haya 'duḥkha'  
vidagdha-ātmīya-vākya śunite haya 'sukha'

"Hearing the poetry of a person who has no transcendental knowledge and who writes about the relationships between man and woman simply causes unhappiness, whereas hearing the words of a devotee fully absorbed in ecstatic love causes great happiness."



## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

34. Never disobey the orders of the SM

It is an offense to disobey the order of the spiritual master.

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The result is described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya 8.99):

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guru upekṣā kaile, aiche phala haya  
krame īśvara-paryanta aparādhe ṭhekaya

"If one's spiritual master rejects him, one becomes so fallen that he, like Rāmacandra Purī, commits offenses even to the Supreme Personality of Godhead."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

35. Give up desire for liberation      36. Give up pride of learning.

A devotee should give up the desire for liberation and pride of learning.

As described in the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya 13.109-110):

rāmadāsa yadi prathama prabhure mililā  
mahāprabhu adhika tānre kṛpā nā karilā  
antare mumukṣu teṅho, vidyā-garvavān

"When Rāmadāsa Viśvāsa met Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu, the Lord did not show him any special mercy, although this was their first meeting. Within his heart, Rāmadāsa Viśvāsa was an impersonalist who desired to merge into the existence of the Lord, and he was very proud of his learning."

# Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

## 37. Cultivate humility

Humility is essential for a devotee.

In the Caitanya-caritāmṛta (Antya 20.28) it is described:

premera svabhāva—yāhān premera sambandha  
sei māne,—'kṛṣṇe mora nāhi prema-gandha'

"Wherever there is a relationship of love of Godhead, the natural symptoms are that the devotee does not think himself a devotee, but always thinks that he has not even a drop of love for Kṛṣṇa."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

38. Give up desire for conquest

A devotee should give up the desire for conquest.

As stated in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Ādi-khaṇḍa 13.173):

dig-vijaya kariba'-vidyāra kārya nahe  
īśvare bhajile, sei vidyā 'satya' kahe

"Conquering the world by means of material education is not desirable. If one engages himself in devotional service, his education is perfected."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

39. Have the right Sambandha Jñāne

A devotee should know the Lord is one without a second and understand His relationship with all living entities.

In the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Ādi-khaṇḍa 16.76-78, 80-81) it is said:

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

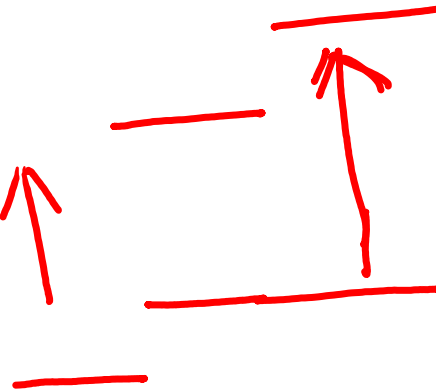
śuna, bāpa, sabārai ekai īśvara  
nāma-matra bheda kare hinduye yavane  
paramārthe 'eka' kahe korāṇe purāṇe  
eka śuddha nitya-vastu akhaṇḍa avyaya  
paripūrṇa hañā vaise sabāra hṛdaya  
se prabhura nāma-guṇa sakala jagate  
balena sakale mātra nija-śāstra mate  
ye īśvara, se punaḥ sabāra bhāva laya  
himsā karilei se, tāhāna himsā haya

"My dear Sir, there is only one God for all living entities. The difference between the Moslem God and the Hindu God is in name only. According to all scriptures-Koran or Purāna-God is one. He is the nondual, eternal, transcendental Absolute Truth, infallible and perfectly complete, and in that capacity He resides in everyone's heart. The Supreme Lord's transcendental name and qualities are glorified throughout the world according to the respective scriptures. The Lord accepts everyone's individual mood of surrender. By committing violence to others, you commit violence to Him."

# Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

40. Devotee should be firmly fixed on the path of D.S

How a devotee should be always firmly fixed on the path of devotional service is seen in the following verse from Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Ādi-khaṇḍa 16.94):



khaṇḍa khaṇḍa hai' deha yāya yadi prāṇa  
tabu āmi vadane nā chāḍi hari-nāma

"Even if my body is cut into pieces and I loose my life, I will never give up chanting the Lord's holy name."

# Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

41. Feeling merciful towards wrong doers.

How a devotee should deal with an enemy is described in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Ādi-khaṇḍa 16.113):

e saba jīvere kṛṣṇa! karaha prasāda  
mora drohe nahu e sabāra aparādha

"O Kṛṣṇa! Be merciful on these living entities! Forgive their offense of torturing me."

42. Give up cheating.

A devotee must give up the symptoms of pride such as desire for fame and cheating.



## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

In the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Ādi-khanda 16.228-229) it is said:

baḍa loka kari' loka jānuka āmāre  
āpanāre prakatāi dharma-karma kare  
e sakala dāmbhikera kṛṣṇe prīti nāi  
akaitava haile se kṛṣṇa-bhakti pāi

"He is presenting himself as a important person by imitating some  
religious sentiments. Actually this arrogant and deceitful brāhmaṇa  
has no love for Kṛṣṇa. To achieve the devotional service of Lord Kṛṣṇa  
one has to be free from duplicity."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

43. Give up Caste Consciousness

A devotee must reject caste consciousness in his spiritual life.

In the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Ādi-khaṇḍa 16.238-239) it is stated:

adhama kulete yadi viṣṇu-bhakti haya  
tathāpi se-i se pūjya-sarva-śāstre kaya  
uttama kulete janmi' śrī kṛṣṇe nā bhaje  
kule tāra ki karibe, narakete maje

"If a devotee of the Lord is born in a low-class family, he is still worthy of worship; that is the injunction of the scriptures. And if someone is born in a high-class family but does not worship the lotus feet of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, then his high birth is useless and he falls to hell."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

### 44. Engaging in Congregational Chanting

The benefits of loud congregational chanting of the holy names is described in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Ādi-khaṇḍa 16.284-286) as follows:

japa karttā haite ucca-saṅkīrtana-kārī  
śata-guṇa adhika se purānete dhari  
śuna vipra! mana diyā ihāra kāraṇa  
japi' āpanāre sabe karaye poṣaṇa  
ucca kari' karile govinda saṅkīrtana  
jantu-mātra śuniñāi pāya vimocana

"The Purānas say that a person who chants the Lord's name loudly is a hundred times more pious than the person who chants to himself. O brāhmaṇa, listen carefully to the reason behind this. One who chants softly liberates only himself, but one who loudly chants the names of Govinda liberates himself along with all living entities who hear him."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

45. Be a Sāra grēhi & not a Bhēra vēhi

A devotee should not carry the burden of the scriptures like an ass;  
rather, he should understand their purport.

The Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Madhya-khaṇḍa 1.158) confirms this in  
the following words:

śāstrera nā jāne marma, adhyāpanā kare  
garddabhera prāya yena śāstra bahi' mare

"One who teaches the scriptures without knowing their purport is like  
an ass carrying the load of all the scriptures."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

46. Activities devoid of bhakti

How a devotee should give up enviousness is explained in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Madhya-khaṇḍa 1.240) as follows:

**bhakti-hīna karma kona phala nāhi pāya**  
**sei karma bhakti-hīna-parahimsā yāya**

"Activities that are devoid of bhakti produce no result. Such activities result in violence to others."

47. Give up sevā-aparādhas

A devotee should give up sevā-aparādhas, or offenses in serving the Deity.

# Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

As stated in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Madhya-khaṇḍa 5.121):

sevā-vigrahera prati anādara yā 'ra  
viṣṇu-sthāne aparādha sarvathā tāhāra

"One who has no respect for the Deity form of the Lord is constantly committing offenses at the lotus feet of Lord Viṣṇu."

48. Learn to see beyond the externals

If a person is internally situated as a Vaiṣṇava even though externally he maintains attachment for sense gratification, then he is counted as a devotee.

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

As described in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Madhya-khaṇḍa 7.22, 38):

viṣayīra prāya tān 'ra paricchada saba  
cinite nā pāre keha tiṅho ye vaisnava  
āsiyā rahila navadvīpe gūḍharūpe  
parama bhogīra prāya sarvaloke dekhe

Pundarīka Vidyānidhi dressed like a materialistic. No one was able to  
recognise that he was a great Vaisnava. He came to Nabadvīpa and  
remained there incognito. Everyone saw him as a grossly materialistic  
person.

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

५५. Give up false pride due to material education.

A devotee should not maintain false pride due to material education and so on.

In the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Madhya-khaṇḍa 9.234) it is explained:

ki karibe vidyā, dhana, rūpa, yaśa, kule  
ahaṅkāra bāḍi' saba paḍaye nirmūle

"What is the use of education, wealth, beauty, fame, and high birth?  
They only increase one's pride to the point of his falldown."



## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

50. Being fixed in vaiṣṇavism & not support various opinions for  
social reasons

A devotee should remain fixed in the principles of Vaiṣṇavism, he  
should not support various opinions for social reasons.

As stated in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Madhya-khaṇḍa 10.185, 188, 192):

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

kṣane dante tṛṇa laya, kṣane jāṭhi māre  
o khaḍa jāṭhiyā veṭā nā dekhibe more  
prabhu bale,-o veṭā yakhana yathā yāya  
sei mata kathā kahi' tathāi miśāya  
bhakti-sthāne uhāra haila aparādha  
etake uhāra haila daraśana bādha

"Sometimes he takes straw in his mouth, and sometimes he beats Me  
with a stick. Therefore he is not fit to see Me. The Lord continued:  
Wherever he goes, he mixes with those people and talks like them. He  
is an offender at the feet of Bhakti, that is why he is forbidden to see  
Me."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

51. Never take sides against a Vaiṣṇava

The fault of taking sides against a Vaiṣṇava is described in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Madhya-khaṇḍa 13.160) as follows:

ye pāpiṣṭha eka vaiṣṇavera pakṣa haya  
anya vaiṣṇavere ninde, sei yāya kṣaya

"A sinful person who takes the side of one Vaiṣṇava and condemns another is vanquished."

52. Consciously give up sinful activities

A devotee should not commit sinful activities after accepting the holy name of the Lord.

# Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

As stated in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Madhya-khaṇḍa 13.225):

prabhu bale,-torā āra nā karis pāpa  
jagāi mādhai bale,-āra nāre bāpa

The Lord said, "Do not commit further sins. Jagai and Madhai replied:  
Never again, O Lord."

53. one should never subordinate the principles of bhakti  
to ordinary rules & regulations

How a devotee should remain aloof from the rules and regulations is  
explained in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Madhya-khaṇḍa 16.144,  
147):

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

yata vidhi, niṣedha-sakalai bhakti dāsa  
ihāte yāhāra duhkha, sei yāya nāśa  
viṣaya madāndha saba e marma nā jāne  
suta dhana kula-made vaiṣṇava nā cine

"All the rules and regulations are servants of Bhakti. One who has  
trouble accepting this is destroyed. One who is blinded by false pride  
can never understand this secret. Being proud of his children, wealth,  
and high birth, he fails to recognize a Vaisnava."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

54. Avoid talking with atheists

A devotee should avoid conversing with an atheist.

As stated in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Madhya-khaṇḍa 17.19):

nagare haila kibā pāṣaṇḍi sambhāṣa  
ei vā kāraṇe nahe prema parakāśa

"Did I speak with an atheist in town? Is that why love of God is not  
manifesting today?"

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

55. Avoid relationships with non-devotees

Giving up relationships with nondevotees is most essential; Śrīla Advaita Prabhu gives the following statement in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Madhya-khaṇḍa 19.175):

yadi mora putra haya, haya vā kiṅkara  
vaiṣṇavāparādhī muñi nā dekhoṅ gocara

"Even if he is My son or servant, I will never see the face of a person who offends Vaiṣṇavas."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

56. NEVER PUT BHAKTI & PIOUS ACTIVITIES ON THE SAME LEVEL

There is no comparison between bhakti and pious activities.

As explained in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Madhya-khaṇḍa 23.54):

prabhu bale,-tapah kari nā karaha bala  
viṣṇu-bhakti sarva-śreṣṭha jānaha kevala

The Lord said, "Don't think you have become powerful by performing austerities. Know for certain that devotion to Lord Visnu is the highest goal."



## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

51. Avoid association of hypocrites & cheaters

The hypocrites and cheaters sometimes advertise themselves as incarnations and thus increase their pride.

A devotee should cautiously avoid their company.

As stated in the Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Ādi khaṇḍa 14.82-83):

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas

madhye madhye mātra kata pāpi-gaṇa giyā  
loka naṣṭa kare āpanāre laoyāiyā  
udara bharāṇa lāgi' pāpiṣṭha sakale  
'raghunātha' kari' āpanāre keha bale

"Sometimes a group of evil persons would try to mislead people in  
general from the spiritual path with wrong advice. These sinners  
simply cheat people in order to fill their bellies by claiming to be Lord  
Rāma."

# Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācārya

58. Take constant shelter of HN

59. Live life without duplicity

Devotees should constantly take shelter of the holy names while passing their lives without duplicity or sin.

There is no greater religious principle than this.

The Caitanya-bhāgavata (CB Ādi khaṇḍa 14.139-140) gives the following conclusion:

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācārya

ataeva kali-yuga nāma-yajña sāra  
āra kona dharma kaile nāhi haya pāra  
rātri dina nāma laya khāite śuite  
tāhāra mahimā vede nāhi pāre dite

"Therefore, in Kali-yuga chanting the holy name is the essential religious principle; no other religious practice can help one cross the material ocean of nescience. Even the Vedas are unable to sufficiently glorify one who chants the Lord's holy name day and night in all situations."

## Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in the footsteps of the previous ācārya

60. Conclusion. → MahāKṛpā yena gataḥ Sa pantiḥ

Human beings should worship Kṛṣṇa by considering the natural qualities and accepting the livelihoods of the previous and later mahājanas.

Pure devotional service is proportionately enhanced by following a proper occupation, otherwise it is never achieved.

What Srila Prabhupada says  
about Sādhu-vṛtti - Following in  
the footsteps of the previous  
ācāryas

## Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

Devotional service means transcendental activities.

On the transcendental platform there is no contamination by the three modes of material nature.

This is called viśuddha-sattva, the platform of pure goodness, or goodness free from contamination by the qualities of passion and ignorance.

## Srila Prabhupada Uvaca

In this Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement we require everyone to rise early in the morning, by four A.M., and attend maṅgala-ārati, or morning worship, then read Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, perform kīrtana, and so forth.

Thus we hold continuous activities in devotional service twenty-four hours daily.

This is called sato vṛtti, or following in the footsteps of the previous ācāryas who expertly filled every moment of time with Kṛṣṇa conscious activities.