

Ten offences Against the Holy Names of the Lord

1. **Vilification of Real Saints.** True saints always chant and serve the Divine Name purely. They sing and spread the glory of the Holy name on this earth. The Name loves them very much and cannot tolerate the least disparagement of such devotees.
2. **To consider the Lord's Names, Figures, Qualities and Pastimes to be different from each other.** Unlike mundane objects, the Lord and His Names, Forms, Qualities etc. are identical. To consider Sri Siva or any other god or goddess to be equal to the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna is also an offence under this category.
3. **To disrespect the Preceptor—to look upon him as a human being.** Sri Gurudeva or the Divine Master is the dearest and most intimate loving associate of the Lord. To disregard his order means to disrespect him. The chanter should fully surrender himself to his Guru and he should be dovetailed with his Spiritual Master. Without his mercy he will never be able to chant the Name properly.
4. **To disregard the revealed scriptures like the Vedas and Srimad Bhagabatam where the glories of the Name of the Lord are written in Golden Letters.**
5. **To think that all the glorifications of the Name in scriptures are mere exaggeration.**
6. **To consider the Names of the Lord to be fictitious or the product of human imagination.**
7. **To commit willfully sins on the strength of the Divine Name.** Such an offender commits sins and then chants the Names thinking that all his sins will be driven away by the power of the Holy Names.
8. **To consider mundane piety, austerity, charity, sacrifices and such other pious deeds to be equal to the chanting of the Holy Name.** Idleness or indifference or lack of sincerity and concentration is also a great offence which is very common among chanters and which is very difficult to give up.
9. **To advise or offer the Lord's Names forcibly to an unwilling non-believer.**
10. **Not to rise above the attachment for this material body and for kith and kin related to this body, even after listening to the wonderful glories of the Divine Names.** This is the most difficult-to-remove offense. We fail to love the Name wholeheartedly and to render pure loving service to Him. This is the greatest hurdle on the path of devotional progress.

If we remain conscious of the above-mentioned offences and try heart and soul to shun them, and if we invoke the mercy of the Divine Master and the Divine Name after fully and unconditionally surrendering ourselves to Them, we will be able to chant the Names properly and purely.