

I doubt seriously that we have even begun to grasp the amazing Grace of God that saves sinners like us. The amount of sins and the type of sins that God has forgiven us of is absolutely humbling to think about. The fact that the Holy God of this universe has anything whatsoever to do with sinners like us should be something that should cause us to forever “praise the LORD.”

This is exactly what this Psalm is all about. **Psalm 106 is a Psalm that asks God to bless people who have sinned greatly against God.** It is a Psalm that tells the truth about the nation Israel, but as Spurgeon said, be sure to see yourself in this Psalm.

The primary point of the Psalm is this:

GOD’S PEOPLE SHOULD CONTINUALLY PRAISE GOD FOR GRACE AND CONTINUALLY CONFESS SIN FOR FORGIVENESS.

It should boggle our minds that God should have anything to do with any human.

There are four main parts to this amazing Psalm:

PART #1 – The sinners praise. **106:1-2**

When we realize that the crux of this Psalm is about sinners getting in a right relationship with God, it is amazing that they are invited to “Praise the Lord and give thanks to the Lord.” But carefully observe from **verse 1** the reasons for it—1) God is good; 2) God is forever merciful.

It is so good to read that God’s lovingkindness and mercy is everlasting. What that means is that the mercy of God has no beginning or ending. God always has a merciful side to Him and that never changes.

The fact that God has allowed sinners to experience good things in this life is something that should prompt all to praise God. The fact that His mercy and lovingkindness is everlasting is a remarkable reason to praise God and thank God.

In fact, **verse 2** says who could even speak of all the mighty deeds of God. Who of us could even begin to count or name all of the wonderful and merciful things God has done in our lives? This is cause for praise.

PART #2 – The sinners pursuit. **106:3**

The sinner who will be blessed by God is the one who pursues what is just and pursues a practice of righteousness at all times. Now as we will see, this is not referring to someone who is sinless. But it does refer to one who pursues a just and righteous course of action, even when there has been sin. The individual that pursues what is just and righteous is blessed and will be blessed.

PART #3 – The sinners petition. **106:4-5**

The petition the sinner makes is for God to remember and favor His people. He wanted to experience the joy of seeing Israel as the glorious and blessed nation of God. The request here is even more amazing when one considers the sins Israel committed against God. What this tells us is that it is possible to experience the blessings of God and the prosperity of God even when what we have done in the past is godless.

PART #4 – The sinners confession. **106:6-43**

One thing that is very evident from these verses is that no one gets anywhere in his or her relationship with God until one is honest about sin. God knows all and is totally and completely holy. There is no hiding from God, and until one is willing to acknowledge his sin before God, he will not experience the blessings of God.

Verse 6 clearly identifies those who were asking for God’s blessings as sinners, who had committed perverse and depraved and wicked things. These people were not trying to cover anything; they were coming clean in their confession.

There are three different words used to describe how bad these people were: 1) They had sinned—missed the mark; 2) they had committed iniquity—done perverse things and 3) they had behaved wickedly—done evil stuff.

According to this verse they had sinned like their fathers had sinned. This is a long list of sins, but there is no new sin mentioned in the list. Sin is as old as the book of Genesis. As near as I can determine there are 15 specific sins that are mentioned: **1) Sins in Egypt (106:7-13); 2) Sins in the wilderness (106:14-33); 3) Sins in Canaan (106:34-39).**

Sin Type #1 - The sin of ignorance. **106:7a** “did not understand”

Sin Type #2 - The sin of forgetfulness. **106:7b** “they did not remember”

Sin Type #3 - The sin of rebellion. **106:7c-12**

Verses 8-12 inform us that in spite of these sins, God saved them and delivered them anyway.

Verse 12 says that when Israel saw God work, such as parting the Red Sea, they praised Him and believed Him for a while, but then they fell right back into the same rut. As **verse 13** says, “they quickly forgot His works.”

God did these things not because they were faithful to Him, but because of His own name.

Sin Type #4 - The sin of impatience. **106:13b** “did not wait for His counsel”

Israel had a habit of not waiting on God. In fact, when Moses was up on the mountain getting the Word of God, the people couldn't even remain faithful for a few days. They invented their own form of worship.

Sin Type #5 - The sin of evil craving. **106:14a**

God's people, who are not willing to wait on God's will, ultimately will crave their own will and that will is evil.

Sin Type #6 - The sin of tempting God. **106:14b**

Verse 15 informs us that instead of waiting on God, they wanted things now and, as a result, God gave them what they wanted, but it brought disease among them.

Sin Type #7 - The sin of leadership jealousy. **106:16-18**

The people were jealous of God's appointed leaders. So God judged them and destroyed many of them because this was a terrible sin. Moses had been used to lead them out of slavery. Moses had been used by God to be involved in parting of the Sea. Moses had been given the Word of God and these people were jealous of Moses and, as a result, God destroyed many of them.

Jealousy caused God to open the earth and also to send fire from heaven to destroy those who did it. God knows who is bad-mouthing His chosen leaders. He can cause their worlds to cave in.

Sin Type #8 - The sin of idol worship. **106:19-23**

Think of this—God's own people worshipped an idol made of their own hands and as **verse 21** says, they “forgot God their Savior.” Had it not been for the intervention of Moses, God would have destroyed them all.

Spurgeon said I see a world given over to crosses and crucifixes and virgins and wafers and relics and we are too mealy-mouthed to say anything about them, but they are all abominations to God.

Sin Type #9 - The sin of unappreciation. **106:24a**

God brought His people to the Promised Land and instead of them praising Him and appreciating what God had given to them, they despised the land.

Sin Type #10 - The sin of unbelief. **106:24b**

These people would not believe the Word of God. We will never experience the great blessings of God if we do not believe the Word of God. NEVER!! God will never bless anyone to do anything if that one does not believe His Word.

Sin Type #11 - The sin of unsubmission. **106:25-27**

The people of God would not listen to or submit to the Word of God. All they did was to grumble and complain.

Verses 26-27 inform us that God was so fed up with this group that He smote some of them and scattered some of them.

Sin Type #12 - The sin of joining false religion. **106:28-31**

These people actually participated in false religious worship services. Baal worship was the abomination of the Moabites. It was an idolatrous worship filled with immoral and detestable things and God's people went to it.

Verse 29 says that God sent a plague against them and had it not been for Phinehas the priest, that plague would have killed them all. The episode is recorded in Numbers 25:1-9.

There are people who think it is okay to go to some false place of worship. It is a horrible thing in the sight of God.

Sin Type #13 - The sin of provoking God to anger. **106:32a**

God's own people did things that caused God to lose His temper.

Sin Type #14 - The sin of hurting a great leader. **106:32b-33**

These people hurt Moses. Their rebellion got Moses so angry that he did something foolish, which ended up costing him. If one does something to hurt a faithful servant of God that one will answer to God (Ps. 105:15).

Moses was just worn down by the complaints of the people. The people got to him. He reached a point where he could hardly take it anymore. When people sin against a great leader like Moses, they will be held accountable by God.

Sin Type #15 - The sin of ecumenical association. **106:34-39**

There are people who need to draw lines of war against certain religious people and not make any alliance with them.

These people should have totally separated themselves from them and destroyed the enemies. Instead they mingled with them as if they were all one big happy family.

- 1) They learned their practices. **106:35b**
- 2) They served their idols. **106:36a**
- 3) They sacrificed their own children. **106:37-38**
- 4) They became totally unclean and corrupt. **106:39**

Now because of all of these sins there were four main results:

(Result #1) - God was angered. **106:40a**

(Result #2) - God hated His own people. **106:40b**

(Result #3) - God let enemies overtake them. **106:41-42**

(Result #4) - God stopped delivering them. **106:43**

But in verse 44 we come to the word “nevertheless.” In spite of the horrible sins when His people cried to Him, He heard them, He remembered His covenant with them, He relented **on account of His mercy (this is what enables Him to relent)** and He had compassion on them **(106:44-46)**.

In **verse 47**, the writer asks God to save them again. Gather them from among the nations so they could once again thank God to His Holy name and glorify Him forever.

When you think about the possibility of having God bless you after you have made such a mess of things, it is no wonder we read in **verse 48**–

“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting even to everlasting. And let all the people say ‘Amen.’ Praise the Lord.”