

Shame As Shackles, Purity Culture, Bondage, Modern Slavery

Union of Saints

1. Bondage Through Control of the Body

- Purity culture creates invisible chains by making a woman's worth tied to her sexual past rather than her humanity, gifts, or choices.
- This control mirrors slavery, where ownership of another person's body defines their value. Instead of literal chains, shame and stigma function as the tools of bondage.

2. Economic & Social Enslavement

- Women who are shamed for sexual history often face diminished marriage prospects, employment bias, or social exclusion.
- Much like slavery created an underclass, purity culture sustains a system where women must "pay" for freedom from shame by conforming to narrow sexual standards.

3. Denial of Autonomy

- In slavery, enslaved people have no ownership of their own choices. In purity culture, women are taught their bodies are not their own but belong to men, family, church, or God in ways that deny them equal **moral agency**.
- This **denies women full human freedom**, keeping them trapped in cycles of guilt and dependency.

4. Psychological Shackles

- Slavery is not only physical but psychological — breaking spirits so control can last across generations.
- Purity culture does the same by internalizing shame so deeply that women often police themselves and others, perpetuating a cycle of bondage without external force.

5. Modern Slavery of Voice & Identity

- Just as slavery silences enslaved people, purity culture silences women's voices about sexuality, pleasure, and consent.
 - When women are shamed into silence, their humanity is reduced to compliance — a modern form of enslavement to oppressive norms.
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✨ **In short:**

Purity culture transforms shame into shackles. By reducing women's worth to sexual "purity," it enslaves them socially, psychologically, and spiritually — echoing the systems of bondage and slavery where freedom of the body, choice, and voice is denied.