A WORLD OF GOOD
A GLOBAL STRATEGY PODCAST

Gena Thomas

Season 4, Ep. 7: Separated by the Border (2021)
www.chogglobal.org/S4E7 (39 min)

Key Takeaway

People are not issues to be solved; they are image-bearers to be loved. Behind every policy discussion, legal debate, and social challenge are real people with names, families, fears, hopes, and inherent God-given worth.

SUMMARY

In this episode, Andrew and Nate interview author, speaker, and immigration advocate Gena Thomas about her book *Separated by the Border*. Gena shares the deeply personal story of becoming a foster parent to a five-year-old Honduran girl who was separated from her family due to the family separation policies at the U.S.-Mexico border. Through the experiences of a birth mother, a foster family, and a child caught between immigration systems, the conversation explores immigration, faith, family, justice, human dignity, and what it means to see and uphold the image of God in every person.

Scripture passage: Genesis 1:26-27

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Listen: 12:03-19:23.* In what ways can personal narratives humanize complex political issues that might otherwise feel distant or abstract?
2. *Listen: 13:16-15:23.* Have you ever encountered an experience that challenged assumptions you previously held? How did that experience impact your faith?
3. *Listen: 24:21-26:50.* How does viewing every person as an image-bearer of God affect how we speak about immigrants or people with whom we disagree?
4. *Listen: 26:50-28:26.* How does language shape the way we view people? What are some ways Christians can communicate with greater dignity and compassion?
5. *Listen: 30:45 - 35:05.* How should local engagement shape the way we think about global mission? For example, if we are passionate about orphan care globally, how should that influence the way we think about and engage in foster care and family support ministries in our own communities?

REFLECTION QUESTION

Think of an issue that has become highly polarized or politicized in society. Are there people whose stories you have not taken the time to hear? What is one step you could take this month to listen to someone directly affected by that issue and better understand their experience before drawing conclusions?