I am a parish minister, and have given serious thought to the issues raised by Margo MacDonald’s ELA Bill, in order to know how to speak to my congregations on this matter.

On the grounds of compassion alone it is hard to resist what Margo is arguing for.

However, I believe that there are other reasons, in connection with human dignity and the value of life, which make me think that we ought not to accept what is being proposed.

It is a great indignity to suggest that a person’s life is no longer worth sustaining. The greater dignity lies with those who emphasise the need to invest in palliative care, in order to offer the best possible attention to those whose life circumstances might be described as “intolerable”.

I also believe in the fundamental Christian principle that each person is made in the image of God. This confers infinite value on the individual. The reason that we have no right to end anyone’s life is that it is worth so much in God’s sight.

I hope these considerations may weigh with the Committee as it prepares its report for the Scottish Parliament.

David Dixon

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