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ON THE HISTORY OF AUTOCEPHALY OF THE APOSTOLIC ORTHODOX CHURCH OF GEORGIA

The decision of the convergence of the local Antioch Orthodox Church granted autocephaly to the Georgian Orthodox Church in the 5th century (487-488) and twelve dioceses established in Karti (Georgia). Petre I the head of the Georgian Church obtained the title of the Catholicos Patriarch.

From the 11th century onwards the heads of the Georgian Church are referred to as *Patriarchs*. In the year of 1811 Russia abolished the autocephaly of the Georgian Church and made the Georgian Church one of its exarchates to fully subordinate it to the Russian synod.

In 12(25) March 1917 Georgian Church regained its autocephaly. However, Orthodox Church of other countries did not recognize this fact.

In 25 March 1990 after the ceaseless efforts of many years the world council of Patriarchs recognized the autocephaly of the Georgian Church. At the same time the convergence of the Orthodox Churches of the world officially approved the title of the Patriarch of All Georgia.