

## DAVID SULABERIDZE, KAKHABER KEBULADZE

### GIORGI TSERETELI ABOUT THE CONDITIONS OF THE GEORGIAN CHURCH AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ORTHODOX CONFESSION

Giorgi Tsereteli's social and political journalism dealt to a considerable degree with the issues of the Georgian Church. He regarded the Christian faith as one of the levers of the national unity and fought for the improvement and development of the positions and rights of the Georgian Church. He thought the Christianity can exert its influence on the Georgian people whose disintegrated existence he compared to 'the beads with a broken lace'.

Giorgi Tsereteli related the weakening of the influence of the Georgian Church on its congregation to the anti-Georgian policy pursued by the Russian synod that was the part of the Czarism colonial plan.

After the abolishment of the autocephaly of the Georgian Church Russian synod did not spare efforts to banish Georgian language as the language of divine service and substitute it with Russian. Giorgi Tsereteli emphasized that the synod policy was aimed at the divorcing of the church and the congregation for the purpose of assimilation of the small nation to Russia.

Giorgi Tsereteli saw the direct link between the recovery of the Christian faith and conducting the divine service in Georgian, along with the religious education of the clergy through the literature written in their native language.