

Greek Grammar

1 John 5:18-21

In Greek grammar, when two singular, personal substantives (nouns, participles or adjectives) (1) have the same case, (2) have only one definite article “the” and (3) are connected by “and”, then both substantives refer to a same person.

Thus, in 1 John 5:20, if the antecedent of “he” is Jesus Christ, then he is both true God and eternal life. This seems to be the case, because 1 John 1:2 states, “the eternal life ... was with the Father and was made manifest to us.”

See Daniel B. Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

