

## Some Notes on the Greek Article

Remember that case is used to determine the function of the noun in a Greek sentence, not the word order. Word order can serve to give emphasis.

Abstract nouns usually have the article before them, but the exception is when two nouns in the nominative case are linked by the verb “to be”. When this happens it may not be clear which word is the subject and which is the complement.

Example:

ὁ λογὸς ἐστὶν ὁ θεὸς

This could either be: “The Word is God” or “God is the word”.

In such cases the complement usually drops the article and is usually placed before the verb.

θεὸς ἐστὶν ὁ λογός.

This can only be translated as, “The word is God.”

So in the case of abstract nouns we have another example:

ὁ θεὸς ἀγαπὴ ἐστίν.  
God is love. (1 John 4:8, 16)

With proper names in general, however, it seems to be largely a matter of the author’s whim whether he uses the article or not.