5-3-1 Assignment on Fee & Stuart, How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth Ch. 3 4

Questions:

1. What is the one item that all of the Epistles have in common?
2. How do we read the text in its historical context?
3. How do we go about finding the meaning of the problem passages?
4. What should we consider in order to establish more consistent hermeneutics for the Epistles?
5. what is the great flaw in our common hermeneutics?

Answers:

1. They are all what are technically called occasional documents and they are all from the first century.
2. First read the text at least two times (preferably in two different translations); second, list everything you can find that tells you something about the recipients and their problem; third, make another list of keywords and repeated phrases that indicate the subject matter of the text.
3. First, in many areas the reason the problem passages are so difficult for us is that they were not written to us; second, despite some uncertainty as to some of the precise details, one needs to learn to ask what can be said for certain about a given passage and what is merely possible but not certain; third, even if one cannot have full certainty about some of the details, very often the point of the whole passage is still with one's grasp; fourth, you need to consult a good commentary; last, even scholars do not have all the answers.
4. We have to hold on to the basic rule which is exegesis must always come first; second, whenever we share comparable particulars with the first-century hearers, God's word to us is the same as his word to them; third, when there are comparable particulars and contexts in today's church, God's word to us in such texts should be limited to its original intent. If the extended application is seen to be legitimate, we should see if there's anything from the extended application that can be the word of God for all times and settings; fourth, we have to be careful with the problem of particulars that are not comparable; fifth, we have to be careful with the problem of cultural relativity; sixty, we have to be careful of the problem of task theology.
5. It is a general lack of consistency.

Terms:

1. Task theology: theology being written for or brought to bear on the task at hand.
2. Hermeneutics: learning to hear the meaning in the contexts of our own day.
3. Particulars: similar specific life situations.

Summary:

Epistles are very rich in content and theology. How to read them well and apply them to our today's life, is very complex and important. We need to study the nature of the Epistles, and their historical and literary context, in order for us to do better hermeneutical work on them.