

ESSAY QUESTIONS
for Conviction: A Sequel to Jane
Austen's Pride and Prejudice
by Skylar Hamilton Burris

1. In what way is the title of the novel, *Conviction*, reflected in the themes of the novel? What convictions motivate Georgiana Darcy, Major Talbot, Jacob Markwood, and Aaron Markwood? How do they live out their convictions?

2. The book employs several "foils." For example, Dr. Ramsey serves as a foil to Jacob Markwood, and their styles of ministry are sharply contrasted. Niles Davidson serves as a foil to Major Talbot, evidencing the virtues of the latter. Discuss foils in the novel *Conviction*. Which characters serve as foils, and how do these foils work to reveal the qualities of the major characters?

3. Compare and contrast the characters of Jacob and Aaron Markwood. In what ways are they alike? In what ways are they different? What kind of relationship do these two brothers have, and why?

4. Do you think Jacob Markwood makes the correct decision, toward the end of the novel, not to tell his friend Major Talbot about Georgiana's feelings? Why or why not?