

What Are You Fighting For
Phil Ochs

C F Em
Oh you tell me that there s danger to the land you call your own

F Em Am
And you watch them build the war machine right beside your home

C F Em
And you tell me that you re ready to go marchin to the war

Dm G7 C
I know you re set for fighting, but what are you fighting for?

C F Em
Before you pack your rifle and sail across the sea

F Em Am
Just think upon the Southern part of the land that you call free

C F Em
Oh, there s many kinds of slavery and we ve found many more

Dm G7 C
I know you re set for fightin , but what are you fighting for?

C F Em
And before you walk out on your job in answer to the call

F Em Am
Just think about the millions who have no job at all

C F Em
And the men who wait for handouts with their eyes upon the floor

Dm G7 C
Oh I know you re set for fighting, but what are you fighting for?

C F Em
Turn on your TV, turn it on so loud

F Em Am

And watch the fool a smiling there and tell me that you re proud

C **F** **Em**
And listen to your radio, the noise it starts to pour

Dm **G7** **C**
Oh I know you re set for fighting, but what are you fighting for?

C **F** **Em**
Read your morning papers, read every single line

F **Em** **Am**
And tell me if you can believe that simple world you find

C **F** **Em**
Read every slanted word till your eyes are getting sore,

Dm **G7** **C**
I know you re set for fighting, but what are you fighting for?

C **F** **Em**
And listen to your leaders, the ones who won the race

F **Em** **Am**
As they stand right there before you and lie into your face

C **F** **Em**
If you ever try to buy them, you know what they stand for

Dm **G7** **C**
I know you re set for fighting, but what are you fighting for?

C **F** **Em**
Put ragged clothes upon your back and sleep upon the ground,

F **Em** **Am**
And tell police about your rights as they drag you down,

C **F** **Em**
And ask them as they lead you to some deserted door,

Dm **G7** **C**
Yes, I know you re set for fightin , but what are you fightin for?

C **F** **Em**

But the hardest thing I ll ask you, if you will only try

F

Em

Am

Is take your children by their hands and look into their eyes

C

F

Em

And there you ll see the answer you should have seen before

Dm

G7

C

If you ll win the wars at home, there ll be no fighting anymore